K

LOVE ROMANCES

MAY NO. 6
10c

MARVEL COMIC

GATE
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"I LOVED a SCOUNDREL!"

NEW!
IT'S A HIT!
Jim Prentice SENSATIONAL, NEW 1949
ELECTRIC BASEBALL
Made and Guaranteed by ELECTRIC GAME CO., INC., 912 Front St., Holyoke, Mass.
BOYS! NOW YOU CAN PLAY BASEBALL ANYTIME – DAY OR NIGHT, COME RAIN, SLEET OR SNOW!
SAYS DAD... THE COACH
HEY, I COULD HARDLY SEE THAT LAST BALL. LET'S QUIT BEFORE SOMEBODY'S BEANED!
GAME CALLED ON ACCOUNT OF DARKNESS, BOYS!
AW, SHUCKS, COACH, DO WE HAVE TO QUIT, JUST AS I WAS GOING GOOD
HEY, FELLERS, I'VE GOT AN IDEA! C'MON FOLLOW ME TO MY HOUSE!
WE CAN CONTINUE PLAYING ON THIS INDOOR ELECTRIC BASEBALL GAME!
OH, BOY! LET'S GO!
HEY, THAT'S KEEN!
I LIKE THE WAY THE PITCHER CONTROLS THE SPEED OF THE BALL! THE BAT CONTACT IS TRIGGER FAST! EACH PLAYER MUST BE WIDE AWAKE.
YES! THE AMAZING ELECTRIC "BRAIN" FLASHES ALL THE PLAYS! IT'S JUST LIKE BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL!
Jim Prentice ELECTRIC BASEBALL
WE WANT A HOME RUN!
STRIKE HIM OUT!
I'LL PLAY THE WINNER, SON. THAT LOOKS LIKE THE BEST GAME I'VE EVER SEEN, AND IT CAN'T BE CALLED ON ACCOUNT OF DARKNESS!
WATCH MY FAST BALL!
Big 14 x 16 in.
STEEL BALL MOVES IN PLAY
INNINGS
Jim Prentice ELECTRIC BASEBALL
HOME RUN
C
TRIPLE
FLY OUT
D
DOUBLE
SINGLE
B
LAMPS LIGHT TO SHOW PLAY
CONTACT
OUTS
1
2
3
GROUNDER
RE-SET
BUNT
OUT
SAFE
OUTS RECORDER
UMPIRE RULES ON CLOSE PLAYS
LONG LIFE BATTERY
$3.00 POSTPAID

Hi, Fellers! This great invention brings you all the fun, fast action, and zooming enthusiasm of sandlot games. Let's play .. It's the last of the 9th .. score tied ... bases loaded. You are the last man up with 3 balls and 2 strikes. The next pitch is it! Will you WHAM a homer or WHIFF the breeze? Hero or [illegible] batter must be sharp to "con-act" the steel ball as it zings through the slot at homeplate. He learns the fine points, when to bunt, [illegible] hit or sacrifice. The play of the game packs every minute full of spine-tingling thrills. breath-taking excitement, just like big league ball games. And, [illegible] though you play it 1000 times you will never get enough. Size 14 x 16 in. with big yellow frame, substantially built

Special Price! If you act today you can get your game at the special pre-season price of $3.00, complete with new extra long-life (5-times) battery, ready to play. Or, if you prefer, pin $1 to this ad and pay the postman the balance $2.00 on delivery. WE PAY POSTAGE AND COLLECTION CHARGES.

ALL GAMES POSTPAID

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912 Front St., Holyoke, Mass.

$3.00	$2.50	
BASEBALL	FOOTBALL	AMOUNT ENCLOSED

C.O.D. Send $1. Postman collects balance.

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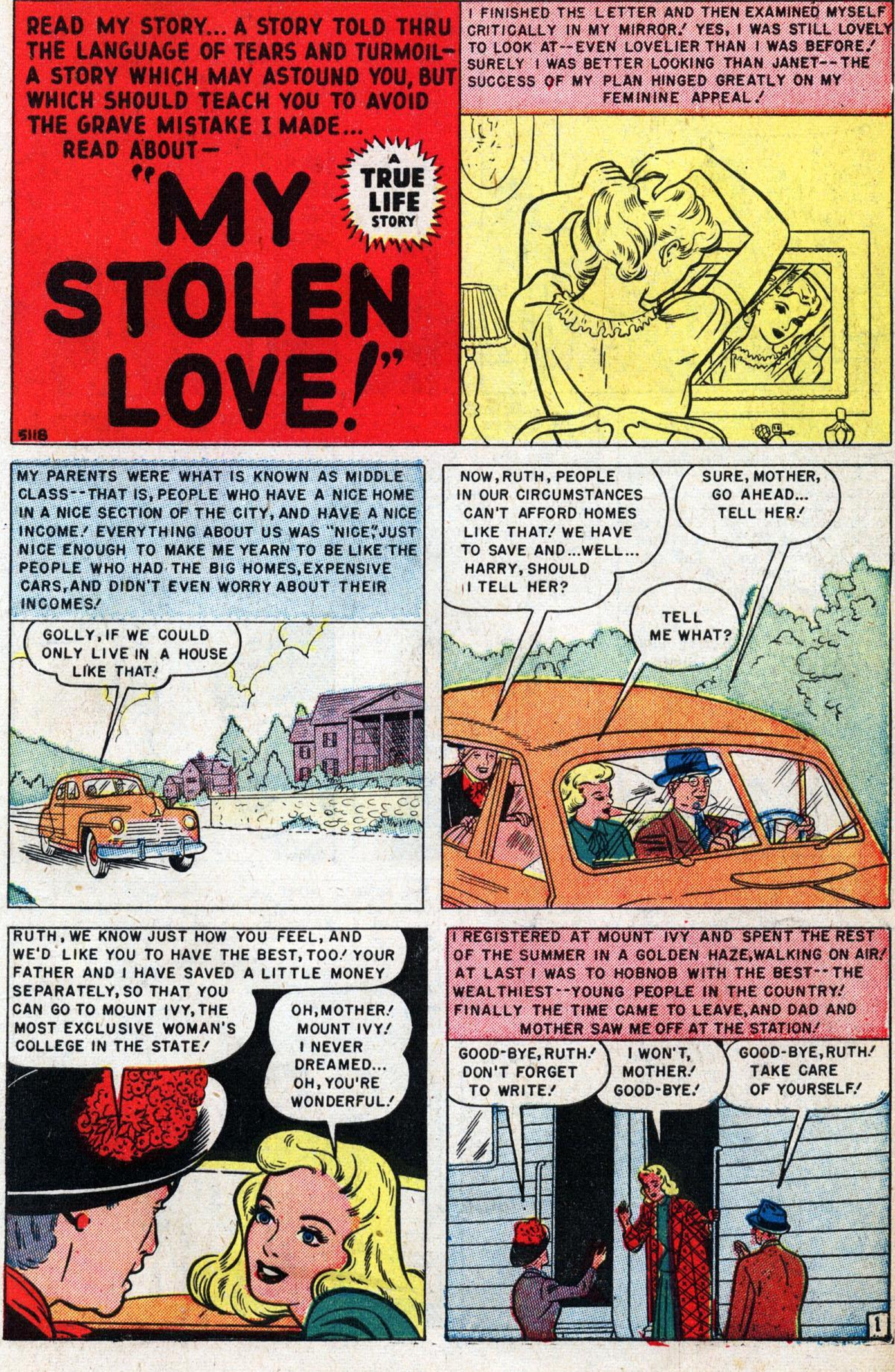
READ MY STORY... A STORY TOLD THRU THE LANGUAGE OF TEARS AND TURMOIL— A STORY WHICH MAY ASTOUND YOU, BUT WHICH SHOULD TEACH YOU TO AVOID THE GRAVE MISTAKE I MADE... READ ABOUT—
A TRUE LIFE STORY
"MY STOLEN LOVE!"
5118
I FINISHED THE LETTER AND THEN EXAMINED MYSELF CRITICALLY IN MY MIRROR! YES, I WAS STILL LOVELY TO LOOK AT--EVEN LOVELIER THAN I WAS BEFORE! SURELY I WAS BETTER LOOKING THAN JANET--THE SUCCESS OF MY PLAN HINGED GREATLY ON MY FEMININE APPEAL!
MY PARENTS WERE WHAT IS KNOWN AS MIDDLE CLASS--THAT IS, PEOPLE WHO HAVE A NICE HOME IN A NICE SECTION OF THE CITY, AND HAVE A NICE INCOME! EVERYTHING ABOUT US WAS "NICE," JUST NICE ENOUGH TO MAKE ME YEARN TO BE LIKE THE PEOPLE WHO HAD THE BIG HOMES, EXPENSIVE CARS, AND DIDN'T EVEN WORRY ABOUT THEIR INCOMES!
GOLLY, IF WE COULD ONLY LIVE IN A HOUSE LIKE THAT!
NOW, RUTH, PEOPLE IN OUR CIRCUMSTANCES CAN'T AFFORD HOMES LIKE THAT! WE HAVE TO SAVE AND...WELL... HARRY, SHOULD I TELL HER?
SURE, MOTHER, GO AHEAD... TELL HER!
TELL ME WHAT?
RUTH, WE KNOW JUST HOW YOU FEEL, AND WE'D LIKE YOU TO HAVE THE BEST, TOO! YOUR FATHER AND I HAVE SAVED A LITTLE MONEY SEPARATELY, SO THAT YOU CAN GO TO MOUNT IVY, THE MOST EXCLUSIVE WOMAN'S COLLEGE IN THE STATE!
OH, MOTHER! MOUNT IVY! I NEVER DREAMED... OH, YOU'RE WONDERFUL!
I REGISTERED AT MOUNT IVY AND SPENT THE REST OF THE SUMMER IN A GOLDEN HAZE, WALKING ON AIR! AT LAST I WAS TO HOBNOB WITH THE BEST--THE WEALTHIEST--YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY! FINALLY THE TIME CAME TO LEAVE, AND DAD AND MOTHER SAW ME OFF AT THE STATION!
GOOD-BYE, RUTH! DON'T FORGET TO WRITE!
I WON'T, MOTHER! GOOD-BYE!
GOOD-BYE, RUTH! TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!
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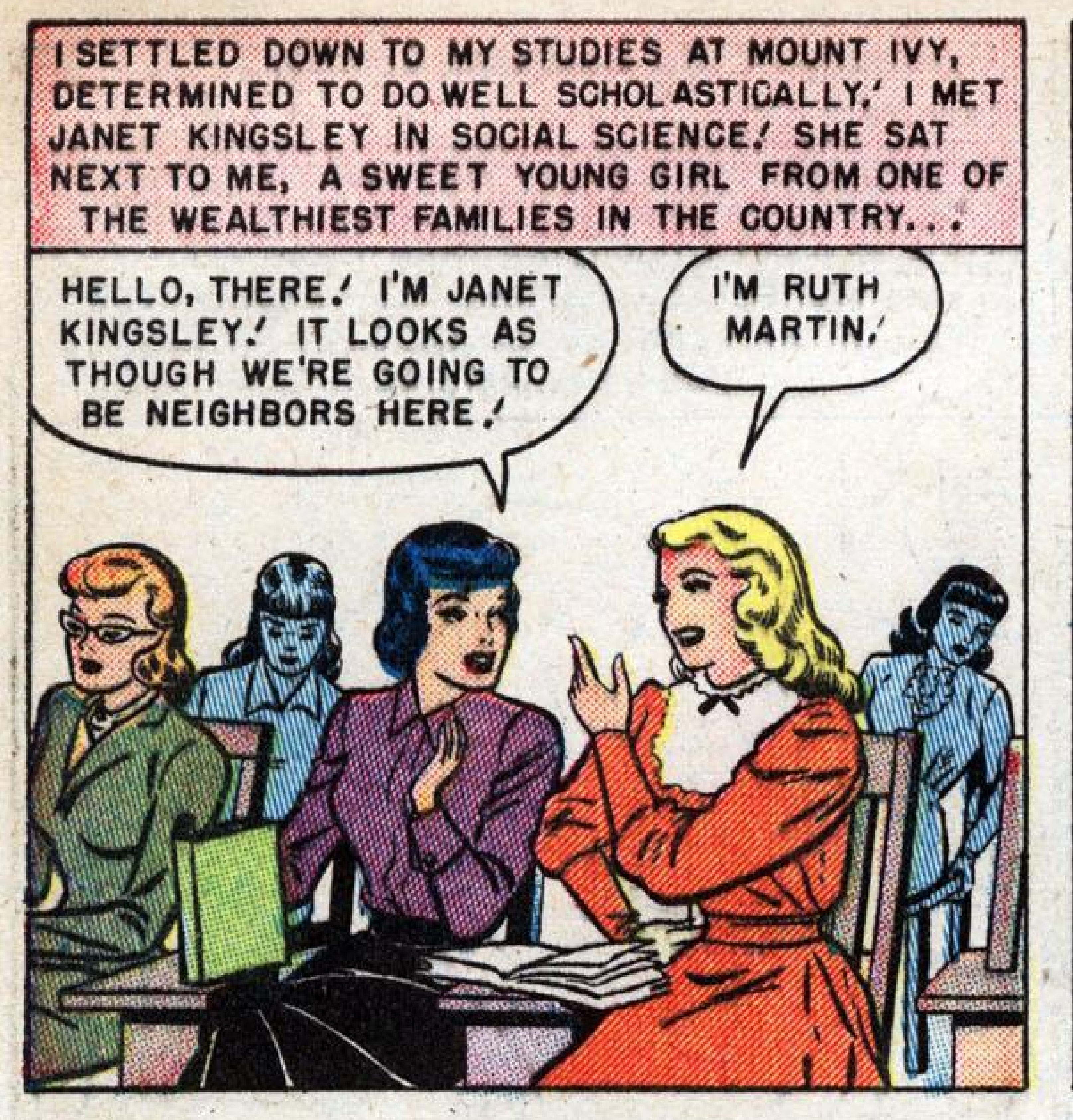
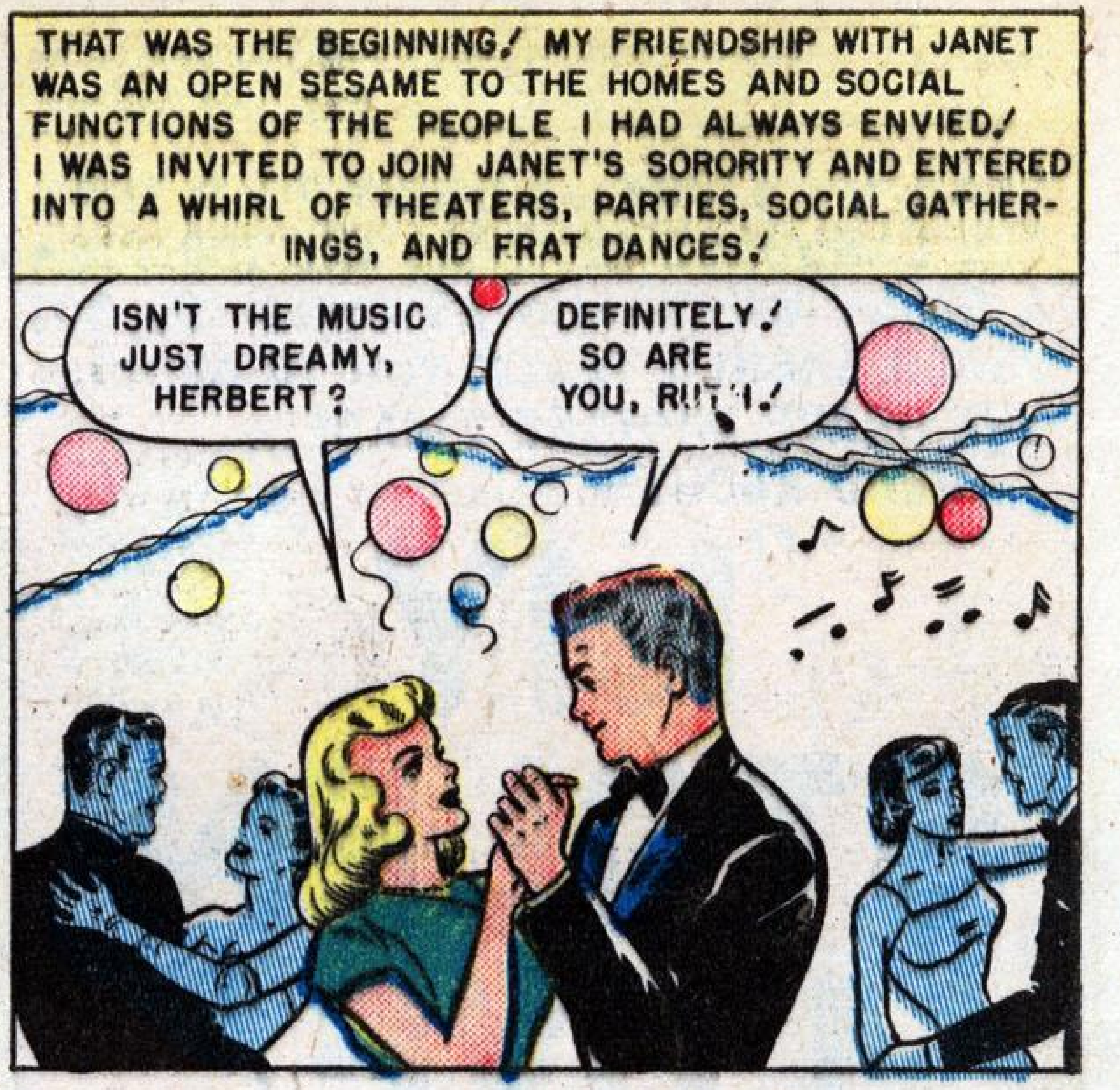
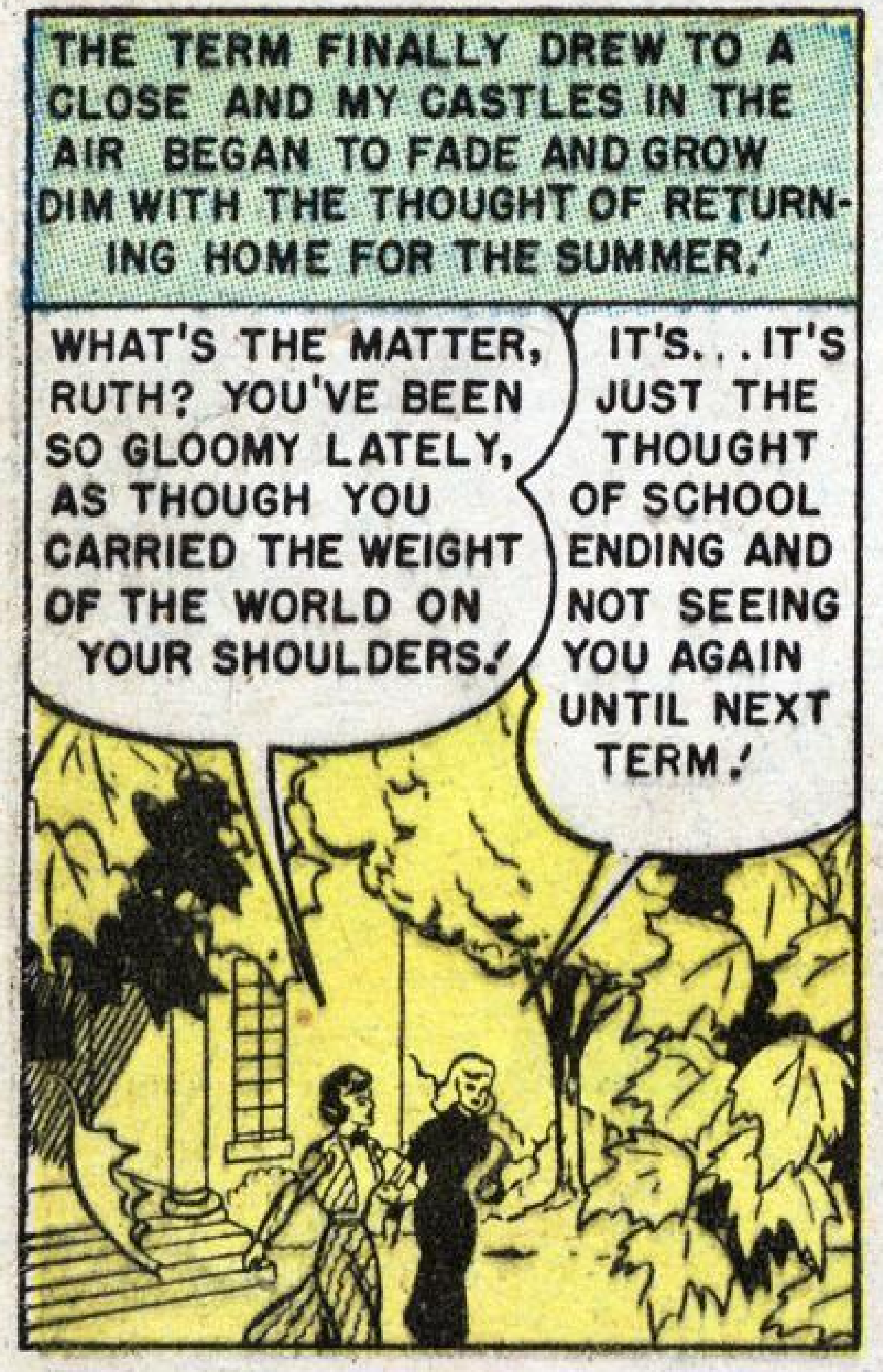
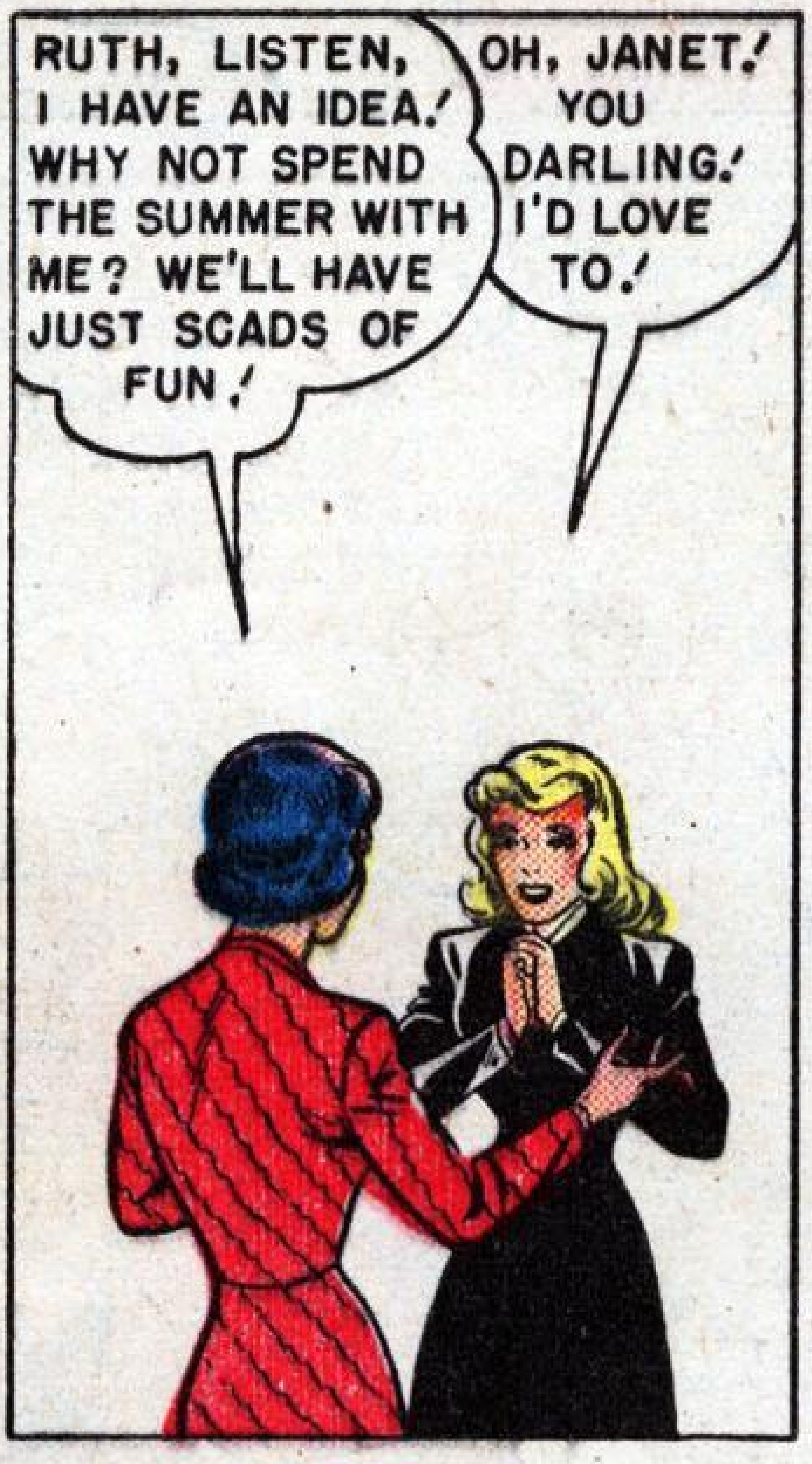
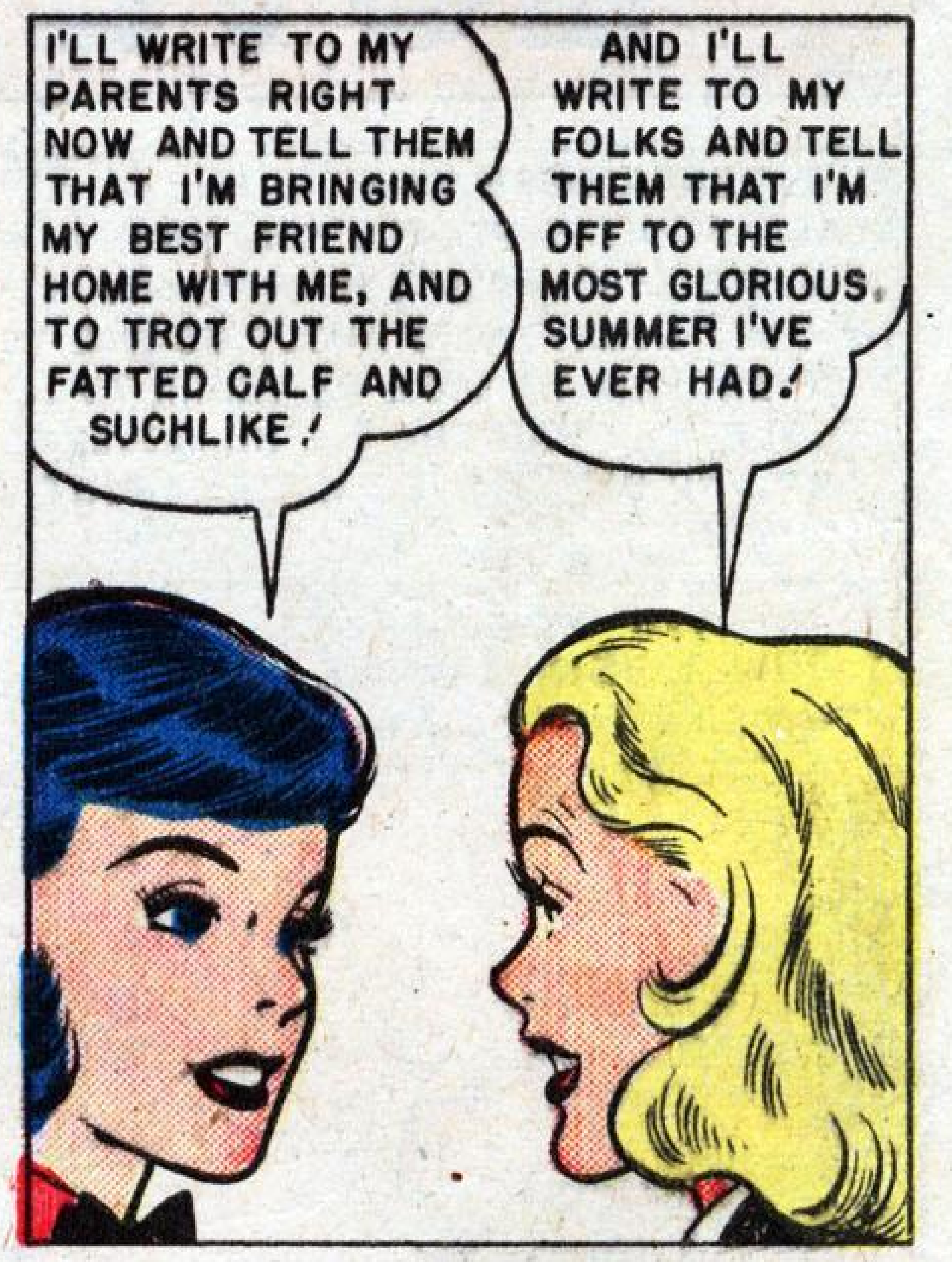
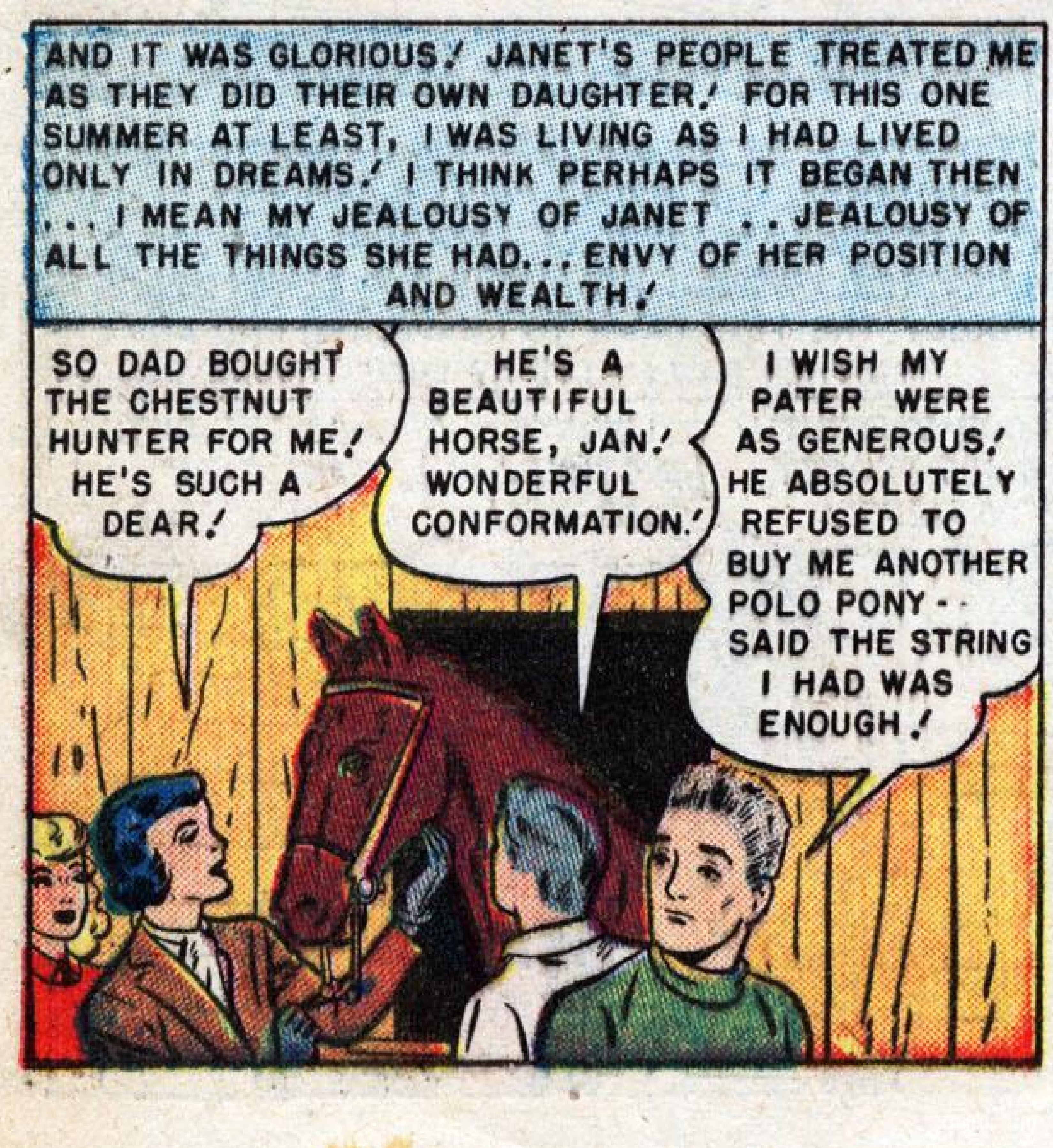

I SETTLED DOWN TO MY STUDIES AT MOUNT IVY, DETERMINED TO DO WELL SCHOLASTICALLY! I MET JANET KINGSLEY IN SOCIAL SCIENCE! SHE SAT NEXT TO ME, A SWEET YOUNG GIRL FROM ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST FAMILIES IN THE COUNTRY...
HELLO, THERE! I'M JANET KINGSLEY! IT LOOKS AS THOUGH WE'RE GOING TO BE NEIGHBORS HERE!
I'M RUTH MARTIN!

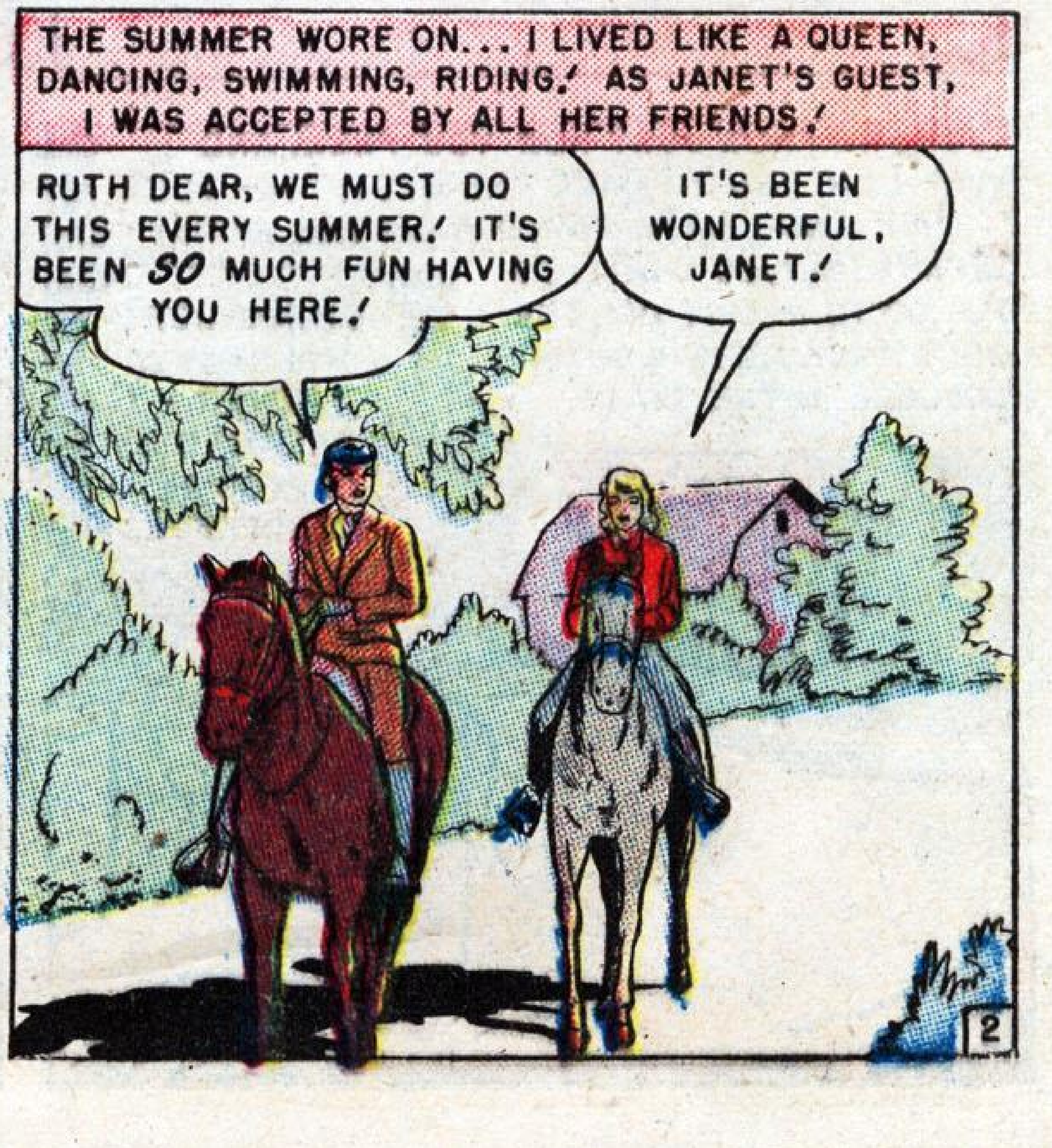

THAT WAS THE BEGINNING! MY FRIENDSHIP WITH JANET WAS AN OPEN SESAME TO THE HOMES AND SOCIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE PEOPLE I HAD ALWAYS ENVIED! I WAS INVITED TO JOIN JANET'S SORORITY AND ENTERED INTO A WHIRL OF THEATERS, PARTIES, SOCIAL GATHERINGS, AND FRAT DANCES!
ISN'T THE MUSIC JUST DREAMY, HERBERT?
DEFINITELY! SO ARE YOU, RUTH!

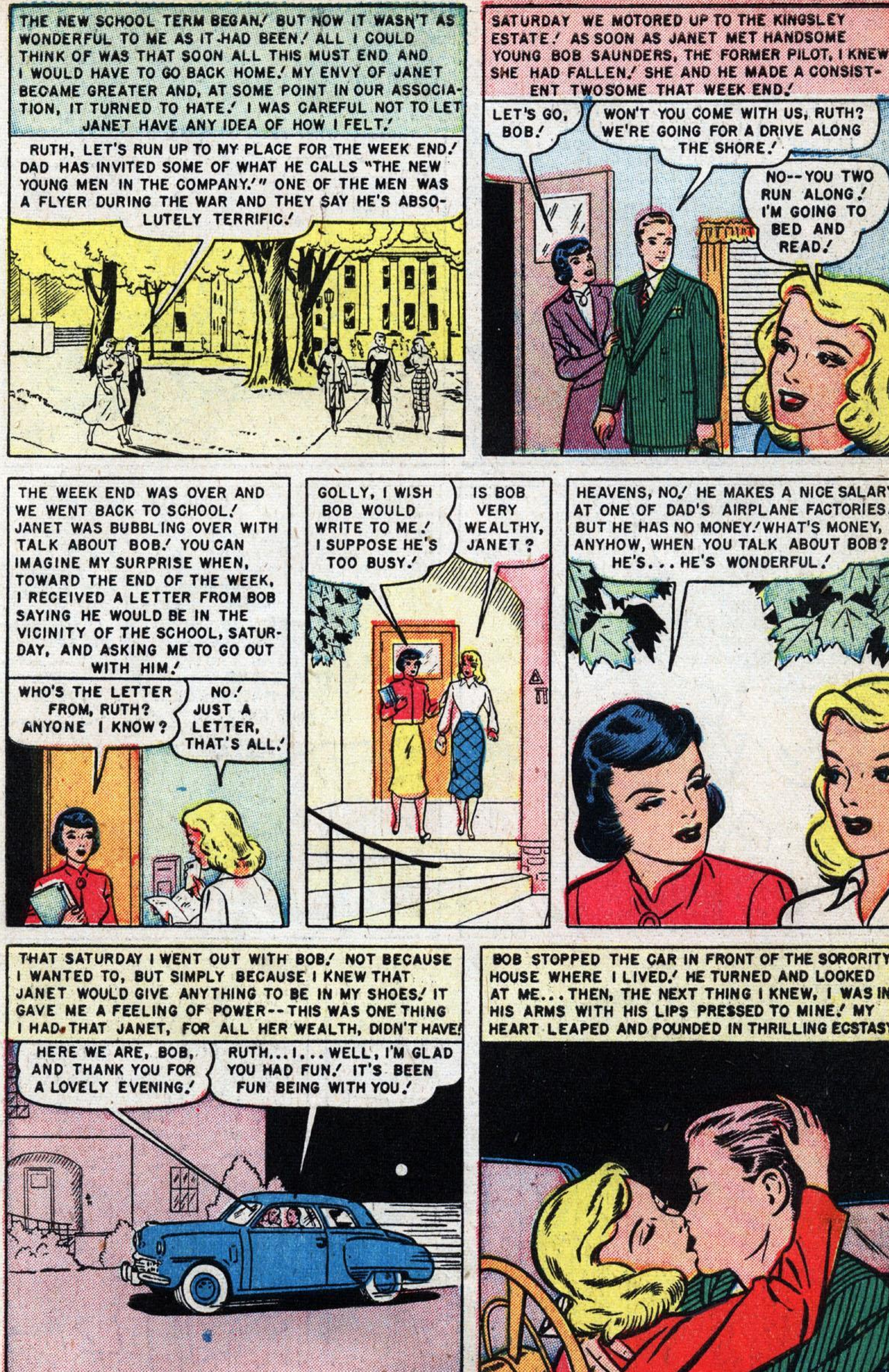

THE TERM FINALLY DREW TO A CLOSE AND MY CASTLES IN THE AIR BEGAN TO FADE AND GROW DIM WITH THE THOUGHT OF RETURNING HOME FOR THE SUMMER!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, RUTH? YOU'VE BEEN SO GLOOMY LATELY, AS THOUGH YOU CARRIED THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD ON YOUR SHOULDERS!
IT'S... IT'S JUST THE THOUGHT OF SCHOOL ENDING AND NOT SEEING YOU AGAIN UNTIL NEXT TERM!


RUTH, LISTEN, I HAVE AN IDEA! WHY NOT SPEND THE SUMMER WITH ME? WE'LL HAVE JUST SCADS OF FUN!
OH, JANET! YOU DARLING! I'D LOVE TO!


I'LL WRITE TO MY PARENTS RIGHT NOW AND TELL THEM THAT I'M BRINGING MY BEST FRIEND HOME WITH ME, AND TO TROT OUT THE FATTED CALF AND SUCHLIKE!
AND I'LL WRITE TO MY FOLKS AND TELL THEM THAT I'M OFF TO THE MOST GLORIOUS SUMMER I'VE EVER HAD!


AND IT WAS GLORIOUS! JANET'S PEOPLE TREATED ME AS THEY DID THEIR OWN DAUGHTER! FOR THIS ONE SUMMER AT LEAST, I WAS LIVING AS I HAD LIVED ONLY IN DREAMS! I THINK PERHAPS IT BEGAN THEN... I MEAN MY JEALOUSY OF JANET.. JEALOUSY OF ALL THE THINGS SHE HAD... ENVY OF HER POSITION AND WEALTH!
SO DAD BOUGHT THE CHESTNUT HUNTER FOR ME! HE'S SUCH A DEAR!
HE'S A BEAUTIFUL HORSE, JAN! WONDERFUL CONFORMATION!
I WISH MY PATER WERE AS GENEROUS! HE ABSOLUTELY REFUSED TO BUY ME ANOTHER POLO PONY -- SAID THE STRING I HAD WAS ENOUGH!


THE SUMMER WORE ON... I LIVED LIKE A QUEEN, DANCING, SWIMMING, RIDING! AS JANET'S GUEST, I WAS ACCEPTED BY ALL HER FRIENDS!
RUTH DEAR, WE MUST DO THIS EVERY SUMMER! IT'S BEEN *SO* MUCH FUN HAVING YOU HERE!
IT'S BEEN WONDERFUL, JANET!

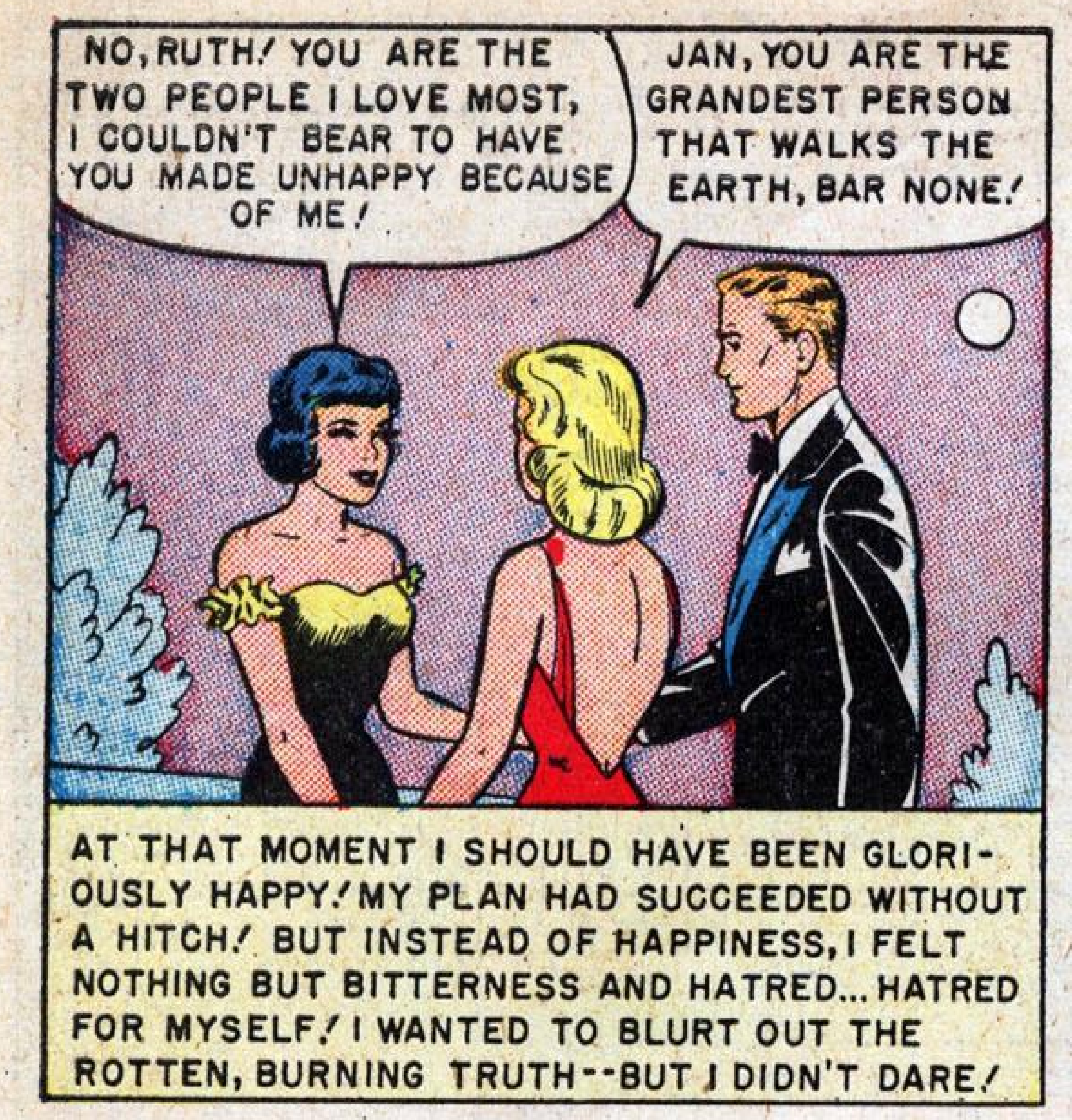

THE NEW SCHOOL TERM BEGAN! BUT NOW IT WASN'T AS WONDERFUL TO ME AS IT HAD BEEN! ALL I COULD THINK OF WAS THAT SOON ALL THIS MUST END AND I WOULD HAVE TO GO BACK HOME! MY ENVY OF JANET BECAME GREATER AND, AT SOME POINT IN OUR ASSOCIATION, IT TURNED TO HATE! I WAS CAREFUL NOT TO LET JANET HAVE ANY IDEA OF HOW I FELT!
RUTH, LET'S RUN UP TO MY PLACE FOR THE WEEK END! DAD HAS INVITED SOME OF WHAT HE CALLS "THE NEW YOUNG MEN IN THE COMPANY!" ONE OF THE MEN WAS A FLYER DURING THE WAR AND THEY SAY HE'S ABSOLUTELY TERRIFIC!
SATURDAY WE MOTORED UP TO THE KINGSLEY ESTATE! AS SOON AS JANET MET HANDSOME YOUNG BOB SAUNDERS, THE FORMER PILOT, I KNEW SHE HAD FALLEN! SHE AND HE MADE A CONSISTENT TWOSOME THAT WEEK END!
LET'S GO, BOB!
WON'T YOU COME WITH US, RUTH? WE'RE GOING FOR A DRIVE ALONG THE SHORE!
NO--YOU TWO RUN ALONG! I'M GOING TO BED AND READ!
THE WEEK END WAS OVER AND WE WENT BACK TO SCHOOL! JANET WAS BUBBLING OVER WITH TALK ABOUT BOB! YOU CAN IMAGINE MY SURPRISE WHEN, TOWARD THE END OF THE WEEK, I RECEIVED A LETTER FROM BOB SAYING HE WOULD BE IN THE VICINITY OF THE SCHOOL, SATURDAY, AND ASKING ME TO GO OUT WITH HIM!
WHO'S THE LETTER FROM, RUTH? ANYONE I KNOW?
NO! JUST A LETTER, THAT'S ALL!
GOLLY, I WISH BOB WOULD WRITE TO ME! I SUPPOSE HE'S TOO BUSY!
IS BOB VERY WEALTHY, JANET?
HEAVENS, NO! HE MAKES A NICE SALARY AT ONE OF DAD'S AIRPLANE FACTORIES! BUT HE HAS NO MONEY! WHAT'S MONEY, ANYHOW, WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT BOB? HE'S... HE'S WONDERFUL!
THAT SATURDAY I WENT OUT WITH BOB! NOT BECAUSE I WANTED TO, BUT SIMPLY BECAUSE I KNEW THAT JANET WOULD GIVE ANYTHING TO BE IN MY SHOES! IT GAVE ME A FEELING OF POWER--THIS WAS ONE THING I HAD THAT JANET, FOR ALL HER WEALTH, DIDN'T HAVE!
HERE WE ARE, BOB, AND THANK YOU FOR A LOVELY EVENING!
RUTH... I... WELL, I'M GLAD YOU HAD FUN! IT'S BEEN FUN BEING WITH YOU!
BOB STOPPED THE CAR IN FRONT OF THE SORORITY HOUSE WHERE I LIVED! HE TURNED AND LOOKED AT ME... THEN, THE NEXT THING I KNEW, I WAS IN HIS ARMS WITH HIS LIPS PRESSED TO MINE! MY HEART LEAPED AND POUNDED IN THRILLING ECSTASY!

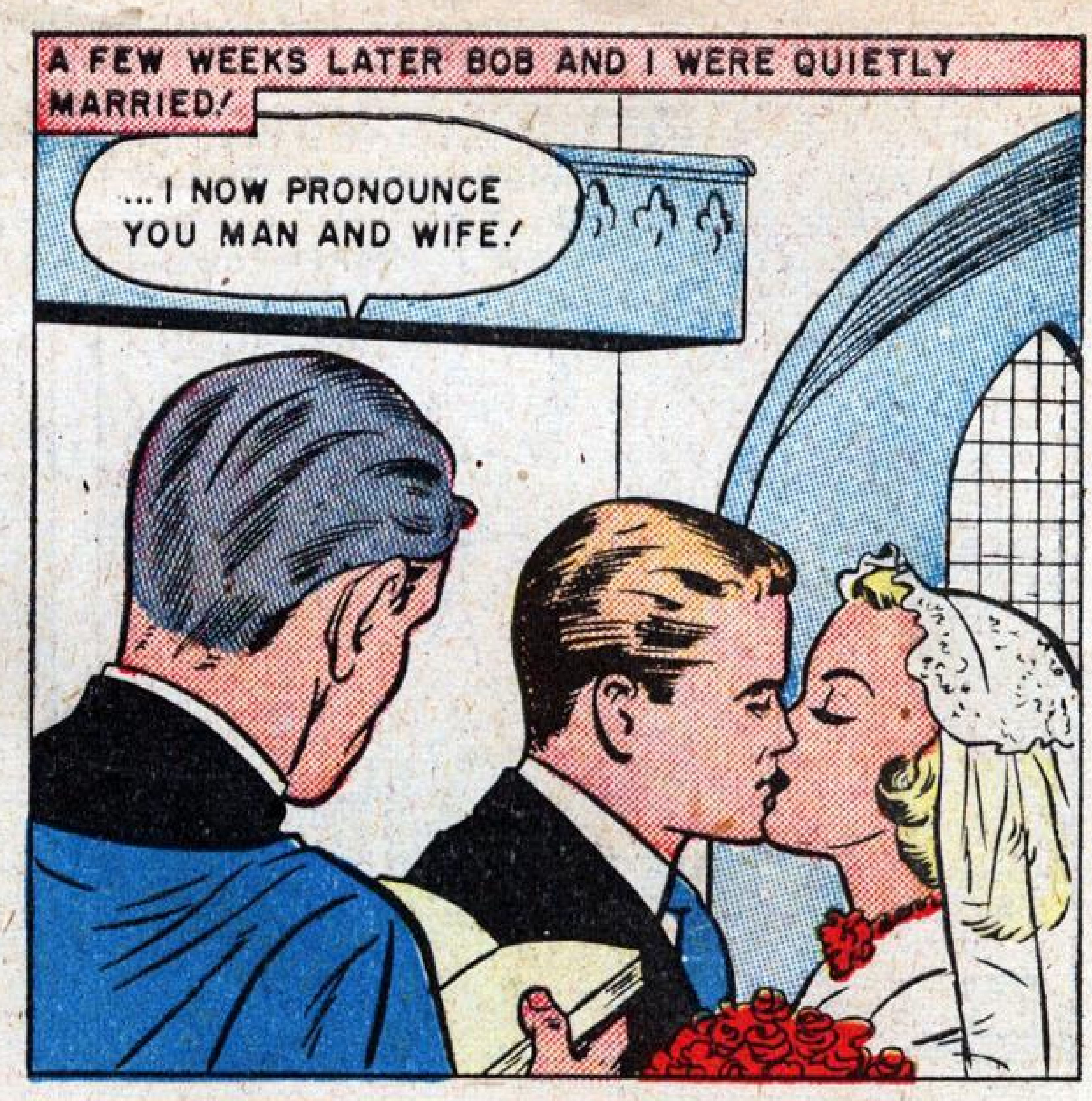
BUT MY MIND REJECTED THE WONDERFUL SWEETNESS OF HIS KISS! I PULLED MYSELF AWAY, ALTHOUGH IT TORE AT MY HEARTSTRINGS WHEN OUR LIPS PARTED WITH CLINGING RELUCTANCE!
NO, BOB, PLEASE!
BUT RUTH, DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? I LOVE YOU--LOVE YOU MORE THAN WORDS CAN EXPRESS!
I'M VERY FOND OF YOU, TOO, BOB....BUT THIS CAN'T BE! I ONLY WENT OUT WITH YOU TONIGHT BECAUSE OF JANET! SHE'S ALWAYS HAD EVERYTHING SHE EVER WANTED, WHILE I...WELL...I'VE NEVER HAD THE THINGS THAT I'VE WANTED... AND NEVER WILL IF I LET MYSELF FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND, RUTH!
LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY, BOB! TO BE BRUTALLY FRANK, WHEN I MARRY IT WILL BE TO A MAN WITH MONEY SO THAT I CAN HAVE ALL THE THINGS THAT JANET HAS! IT WOULD BE EASY TO LOVE YOU, BOB, BUT... NOT VERY PROFITABLE!
I SEE! SO YOU HAVE IT ALL FIGURED OUT IN THAT MIXED-UP LITTLE BRAIN OF YOURS! WELL, LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING RUTH MARTIN...
...HAPPINESS CAN'T BE BOUGHT! PERHAPS YOU DON'T REALIZE IT, BUT YOU HATE JANET BECAUSE OF THE MATERIAL THINGS THAT SHE HAS, AND HAS SHARED WITH YOU! YOU HATE HER BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE THOSE THINGS! SOMEDAY, PERHAPS, YOU'LL COME TO YOUR SENSES AND REALIZE THAT LOVE, TRUTH, AND HONESTY ARE THE INGREDIENTS OF HAPPINESS... REAL HAPPINESS!
THANKS FOR THE LECTURE, BUT I'M AFRAID I'VE FORMED MY OWN THEORIES, PROFESSOR! GOODNIGHT AND... GOOD-BYE!
I SAW BOB A FEW TIMES AFTER THAT, BUT ONLY WHEN HE WAS WITH JANET! THEN ONE DAY I HAD A VISIT FROM DAD--A VISIT THAT CAUSED MY CUP OF BITTERNESS TO OVERFLOW!
RUTH, MY DEAR, I'M AFRAID I HAVE BAD NEWS FOR YOU! I'VE MADE SOME BAD INVESTMENTS LATELY AND... WELL...
YOU MEAN I HAVE TO LEAVE SCHOOL. IS THAT IT, DAD?
TIVY
YES, DEAR, THAT'S ABOUT IT!
OH, DAD, I...
HELLO, MISTER MARTIN! SAY, WHAT ARE YOU TWO LOOKING SO GLUM ABOUT? IS ANYTHING WRONG?
OH, JAN, I... I HAVE TO LEAVE SCHOOL AND GO HOME!
RUTH, WHAT A SHAME! BUT LOOK, HONEY, IT ISN'T AS BAD AS ALL THAT! WE'LL STILL SEE EACH OTHER AND WE'LL STILL SPEND THE SUMMER TOGETHER AND ALL THAT!

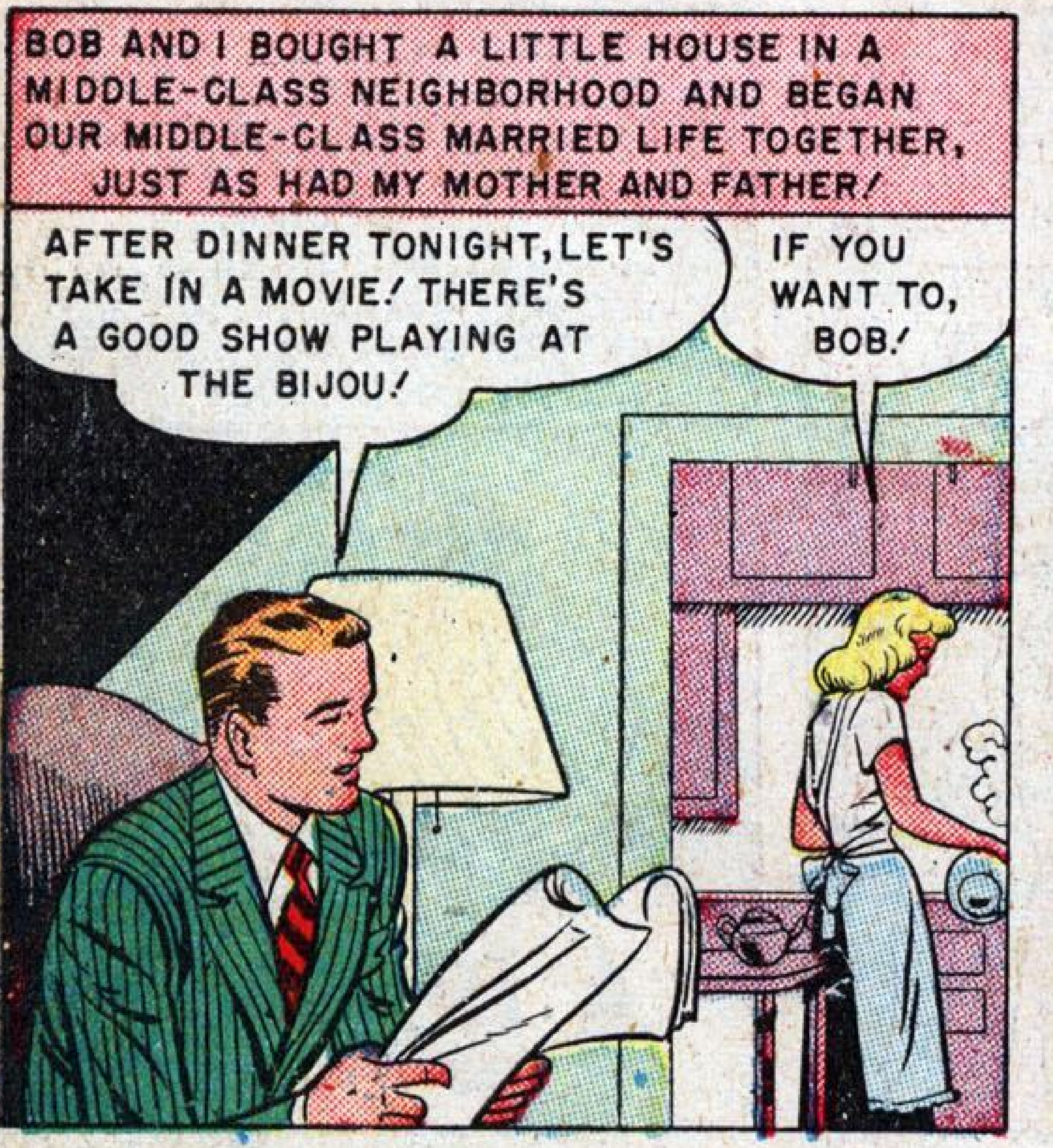
IT WAS ALL RIGHT FOR JAN! SHE STILL HAD EVERYTHING THAT MATTERED BUT NOW I HAD TO GO HOME...HOME TO THE MIDDLE-CLASS EXISTENCE THAT I HATED AND DESPISED... HOME TO A LIFE OF NOTHINGNESS!
I'LL HELP YOU PACK, RUTH!
I'LL WAIT IN THE CAR FOR YOU, RUTH!
SO I WENT HOME! AND THE MONTHS PASSED AND THE BITTERNESS IN MY SOUL DEEPENED AS THE MONTHS TURNED INTO YEARS! I HAD RECEIVED NUMEROUS INVITATIONS FROM JANET, BUT I COULDN'T ACCEPT THEM...BECAUSE NOW I HATED HER WITH AN INTENSITY THAT SHE'D BE SURE TO RECOGNIZE IF WE MET! TO ME SHE HAD BECOME THE SYMBOL OF ALL THE THINGS I WANTED BUT DIDN'T HAVE!
SAY, RUTH, THERE'S AN ITEM IN THE SOCIETY COLUMN ABOUT YOUR FRIEND, JANET KINGSLEY!
MAY I SEE IT, DAD?
IT SAYS THAT JANET KINGSLEY AND BOB SANDERS HAVE BEEN SEEN AT MOST OF THE SEASON'S SOCIAL FUNCTIONS TOGETHER!
..."AND IT IS RUMORED THAT ROMANCE IS IN THE AIR FOR THE ATTRACTIVE YOUNG COUPLE! MISS KINGSLEY IS THE DAUGHTER OF ROGER F. KINGSLEY, FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO..." HMM, WHO CARES?!!
OH, RUTH--HERE'S A LETTER THAT CAME FOR YOU THIS MORNING!
IT'S FROM JANET!
and Bob and I will announce our engagement! We plan to be married in the fall! Ruth, please come and spend the rest of the summer with us! Love, Janet
SUPPER WILL BE READY IN A MOMENT, RUTH!
I'LL BE BACK IN A MOMENT, MOTHER! JAN WANTS ME TO SPEND THE SUMMER WITH HER, AND THIS TIME I'M GOING TO ACCEPT THE INVITATION!
GOOD! YOU SHOULD HAVE VISITED HER BEFORE THIS WHEN SHE INVITED YOU! THE CHANGE WILL DO YOU A WORLD OF GOOD!
I WENT TO MY ROOM AND WROTE TO JAN, ACCEPTING HER INVITATION! A PLAN WAS BREWING IN MY MIND...A PLAN THAT HELD ALL THE INGREDIENTS OF MY JEALOUSY AND HATE!
...AND IT WILL BE SO WONDERFUL TO SEE YOU AND BOB AGAIN!

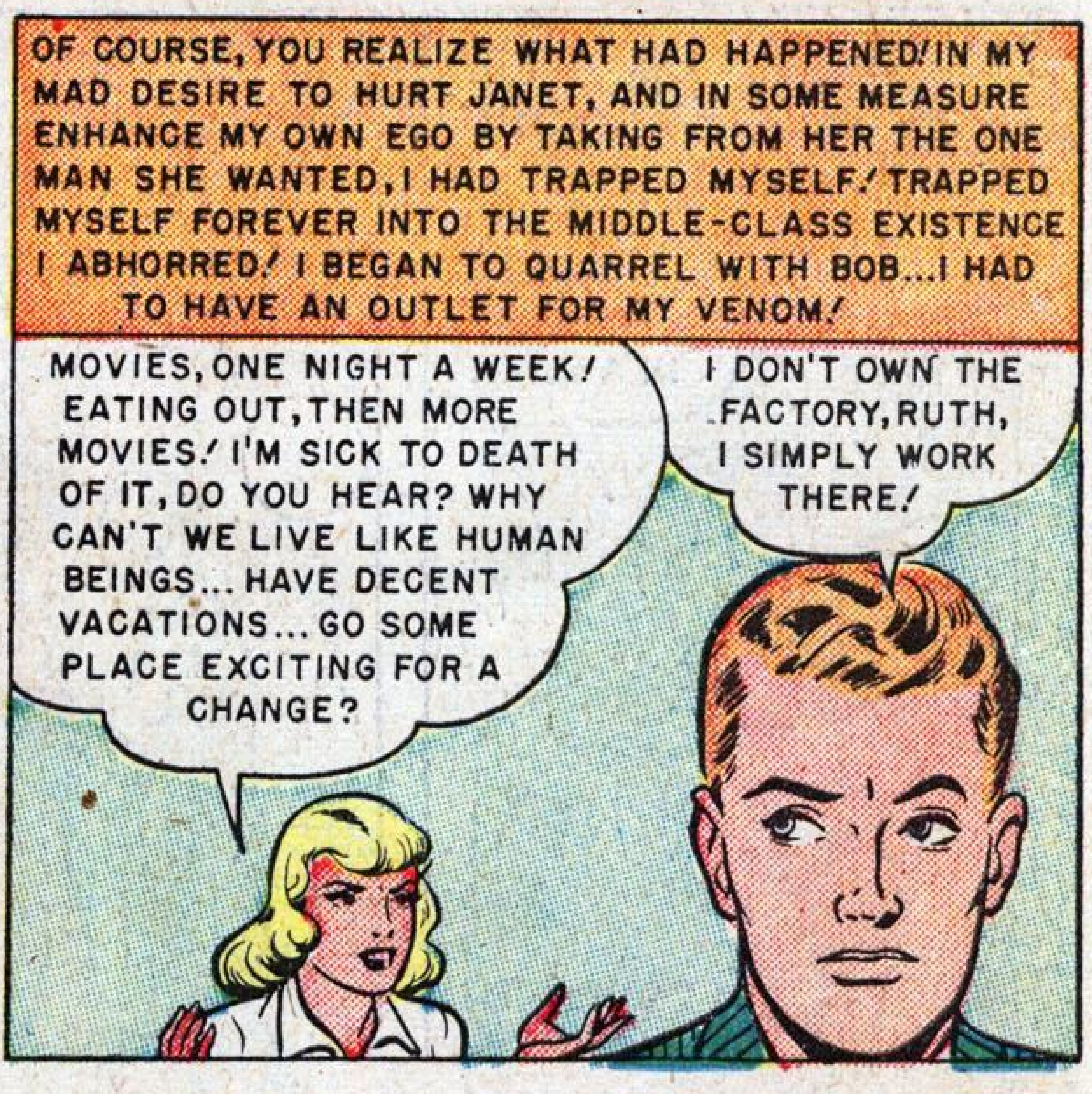
I FINISHED THE LETTER AND THEN EXAMINED MYSELF CRITICALLY IN MY MIRROR! YES, I WAS STILL LOVELY TO LOOK AT--EVEN LOVELIER THAN I WAS BEFORE! SURELY I WAS BETTER LOOKING THAN JANET--THE SUCCESS OF MY PLAN HINGED GREATLY ON MY FEMININE APPEAL!
A FEW DAYS LATER, I LEFT FOR JANET'S! DURING THE TRAIN RIDE I PERFECTED MY PLAN! IT WAS A SIMPLE PLAN, BUT--IF IT WORKED--EFFECTIVE! JANET HAD EVERYTHING, BUT THE ONE THING SHE WANTED MORE THAN ALL ELSE WAS BOB, SO... I WOULD TAKE BOB AWAY FROM HER!
THEN I, WHO HAVE NOTHING, WILL HAVE THE MAN SHE WANTS! HE WAS IN LOVE WITH ME ONCE... I'LL MAKE HIM FALL IN LOVE WITH ME AGAIN!
JAN AND BOB MET ME AT THE STATION! I BEGAN THEN TO PLAY MY PART! JAN MUSTN'T KNOW HOW I HATED HER, AND BOB MUST BE MADE TO THINK THAT THE ROMANCE I PLANNED FOR US WAS A LOVE MADE IN HEAVEN AND BLESSED BY THE FATE THAT SHAPES OUR LIVES!
OH, RUTH, IT'S BEEN SO LONG!
I REALIZE NOW HOW LONG IT'S BEEN! JAN, IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU!
RUTH, YOU'RE JUST AS LOVELY AS EVER! YOU LOOK POSITIVELY RADIANT!
THERE WAS A GRAND PARTY ANNOUNCING THE ENGAGEMENT OF JAN AND BOB! EVERYBODY WHO WAS ANYBODY WAS THERE! JAN WAS BEAUTIFUL IN HER LOVE... FOR A LONG MOMENT GRIEF AND PITY STRUCK AT MY HEART FOR THE TRICK I'D PLANNED! BUT THE HATE I'D NURTURED OVER THE YEARS COULDN'T BE DENIED!
I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU, DARLING!
THANK YOU, RUTH!
NOW CAME THE HARDEST PART OF MY PLAN! SOMEHOW I HAD TO GET BOB ALONE, USE ALL MY FEMININE WILES ON HIM, AND REAWAKEN HIS LOVE! FATE PLAYED INTO MY HAND THE FIRST WEEK I WAS THERE!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? ARE YOU HURT, JAN?
NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, DEAR--I SPRAINED MY ANKLE PLAYING TENNIS!
IT'S PRETTY BADLY SWOLLEN!
JAN'S PHYSICIAN INSISTED SHE STAY OFF THE INJURED FOOT UNTIL IT HEALED!
... BUT WE WON'T LET IT SPOIL YOUR FUN, RUTH! BOB WILL SQUIRE YOU AROUND, WON'T YOU, DEAR?
BE GLAD TO!
SPOIL MY FUN! THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!

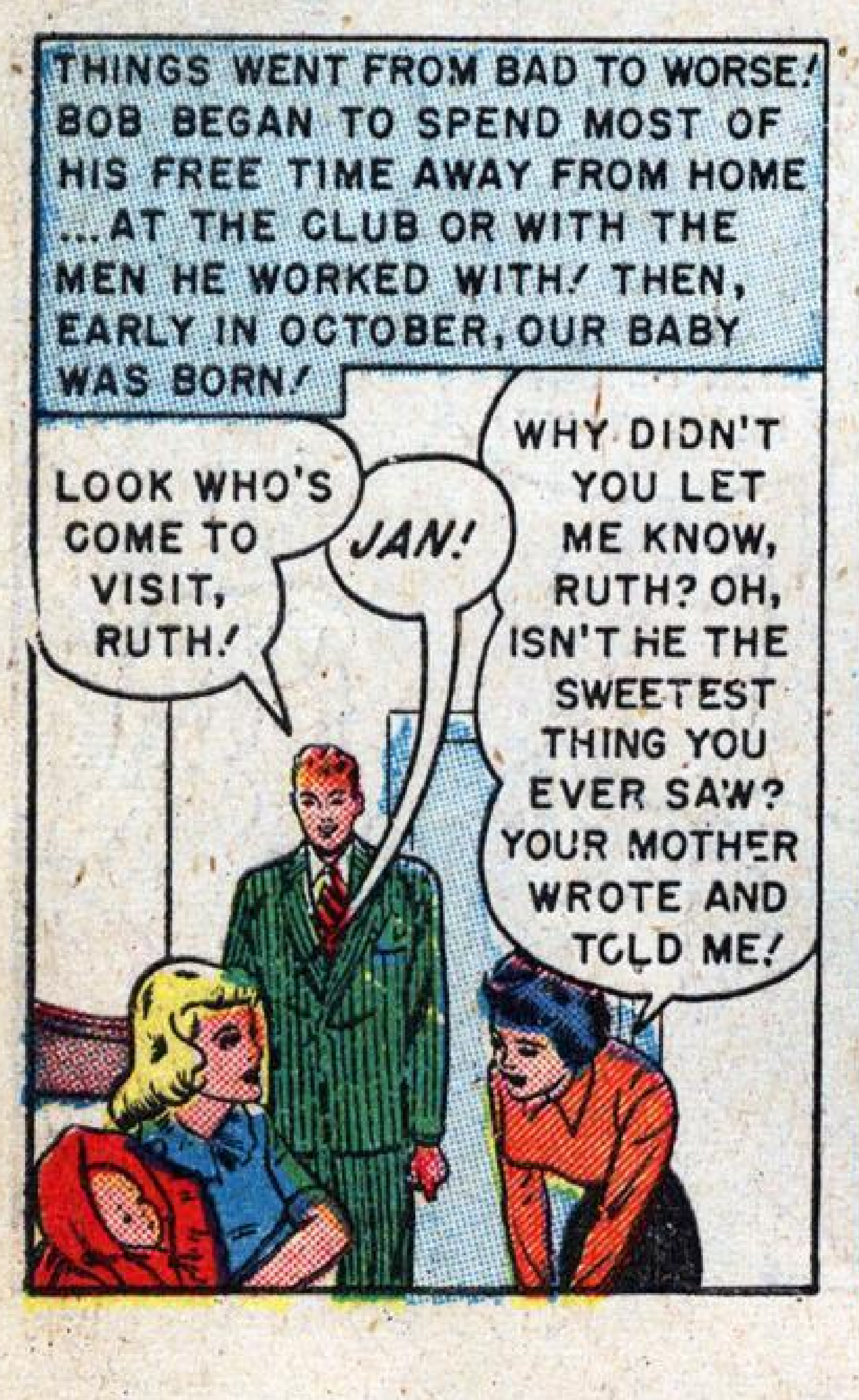
BOB AND I WENT EVERYWHERE TOGETHER AFTER THAT! I COULD TELL BY THE WAY HE LOOKED AT ME, AND BY OTHER SECRET SIGNS THAT ONLY A WOMAN'S HEART KNOWS, THAT THE SPARK OF HIS SECRET LOVE FOR ME WAS BEING FANNED AND NOURISHED BY MY NEARNESS!
TOO BAD JAN IS STILL INCONVENIENCED BY THAT BAD ANKLE! I KNOW I'M A POOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HER!
NO, RUTH, YOU'RE ...YOU'RE... YES, IT'S TOO BAD!
BOB, I WANT TO TELL YOU SOMETHING...SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN IN MY MIND FOR A LONG TIME...SINCE THE NIGHT YOU TOOK ME OUT WHEN I WAS GOING TO MOUNT IVY! WHAT I SAID THAT NIGHT WAS WRONG...WRONG AND SILLY! I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT NOW!
RUTH, WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THIS BEFORE? WHY DIDN'T YOU EVER TRY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ME?
IT'S BETTER THIS WAY, BOB! JAN'S A GRAND GIRL! YOU TWO WILL BE VERY HAPPY TOGETHER!
BUT RUTH, DON'T YOU REALIZE ...I'M... I'M AWFULLY FOND OF JAN, I LOVE HER, OF COURSE... IN A WAY...
BUT I LOVE YOU IN A DIFFERENT WAY! I'VE LOVED YOU FROM THE BEGINNING...LOVED YOU WITH ALL MY HEART AND SOUL! RUTH, DARLING...
OH, BOB, MY DEAREST!
I SWAYED TOWARD HIM...THEN I WAS IN HIS ARMS, HIS LIPS PRESSED SAVAGELY ON MINE, AND ONCE AGAIN THAT FEELING STOLE OVER MY WHOLE BEING, AS THOUGH THE SUN WERE LIGHTING UP AND WARMING ALL THE COLD CORNERS OF MY HEART WHERE HATE AND JEALOUSY HID!
I HEARD A STIFLED SOB, A LITTLE SOUND OF HURT, BEHIND US! OUR INTIMATE ECSTASY INTERRUPTED, WE TURNED, BOB AND I, AND THERE STOOD --JANET!
THE...THE DOCTOR SAID I COULD WALK A LITTLE TONIGHT, SO I...I...BUT FORGIVE ME FOR INTRUDING!
OH, JAN, I'M SO SORRY! THIS SHOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED!
JAN, I... DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY ...I FEEL LIKE A CAD!
NO, BOB, YOU'RE NOT A CAD! AND THERE'S NOTHING TO SAY, EXCEPT... TELL ME, ARE YOU TWO IN LOVE?
YES, JAN, I GUESS... YES, I LOVE RUTH VERY MUCH, JAN! I HAVE LOVED HER FOR A LONG TIME!
AND I LOVE BOB! BUT I'LL GO AWAY ...OUT OF HIS LIFE! I'LL...

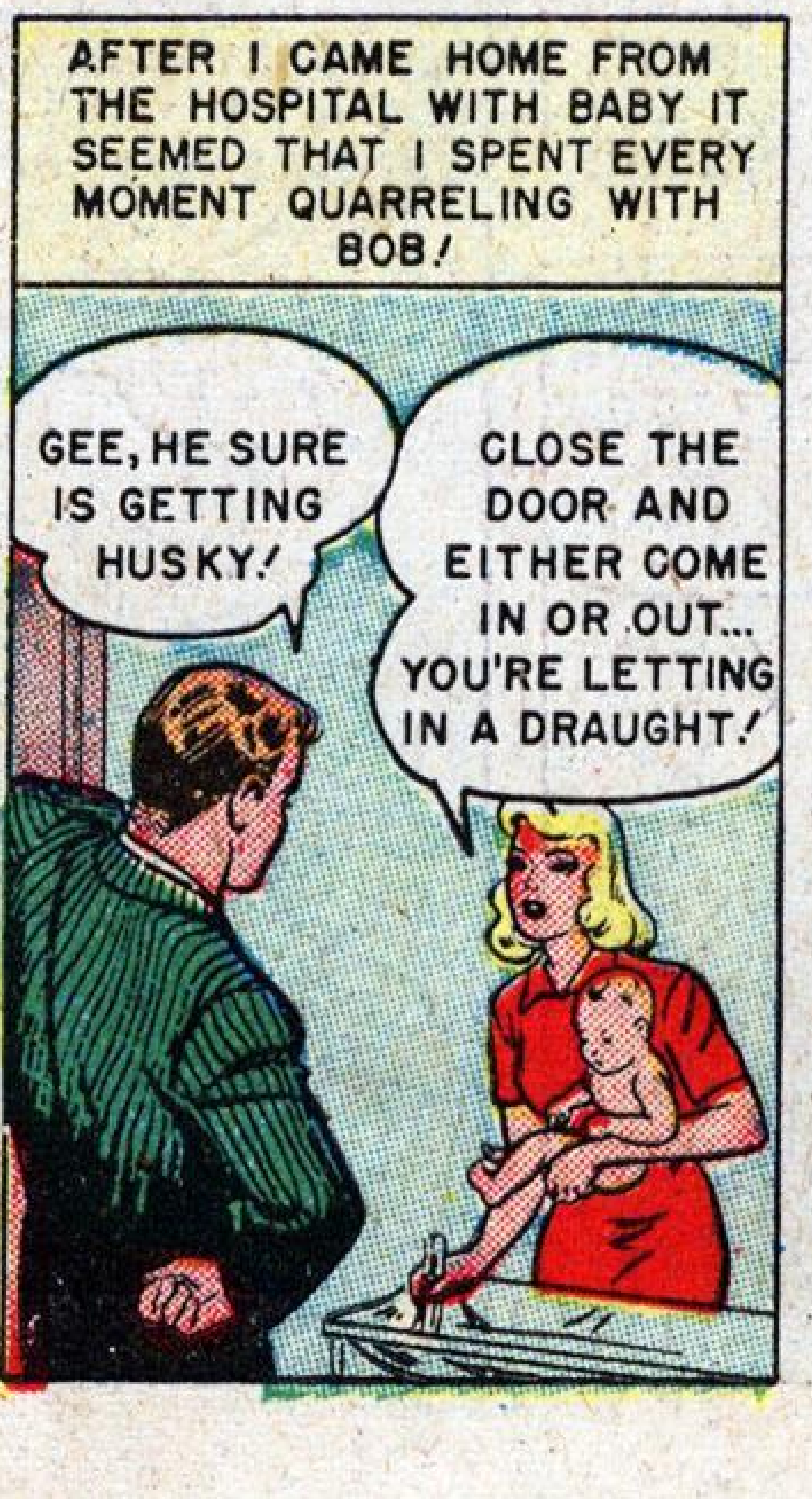

NO, RUTH! YOU ARE THE TWO PEOPLE I LOVE MOST, I COULDN'T BEAR TO HAVE YOU MADE UNHAPPY BECAUSE OF ME!
JAN, YOU ARE THE GRANDEST PERSON THAT WALKS THE EARTH, BAR NONE!
AT THAT MOMENT I SHOULD HAVE BEEN GLORIOUSLY HAPPY! MY PLAN HAD SUCCEEDED WITHOUT A HITCH! BUT INSTEAD OF HAPPINESS, I FELT NOTHING BUT BITTERNESS AND HATRED... HATRED FOR MYSELF! I WANTED TO BLURT OUT THE ROTTEN, BURNING TRUTH--BUT I DIDN'T DARE!

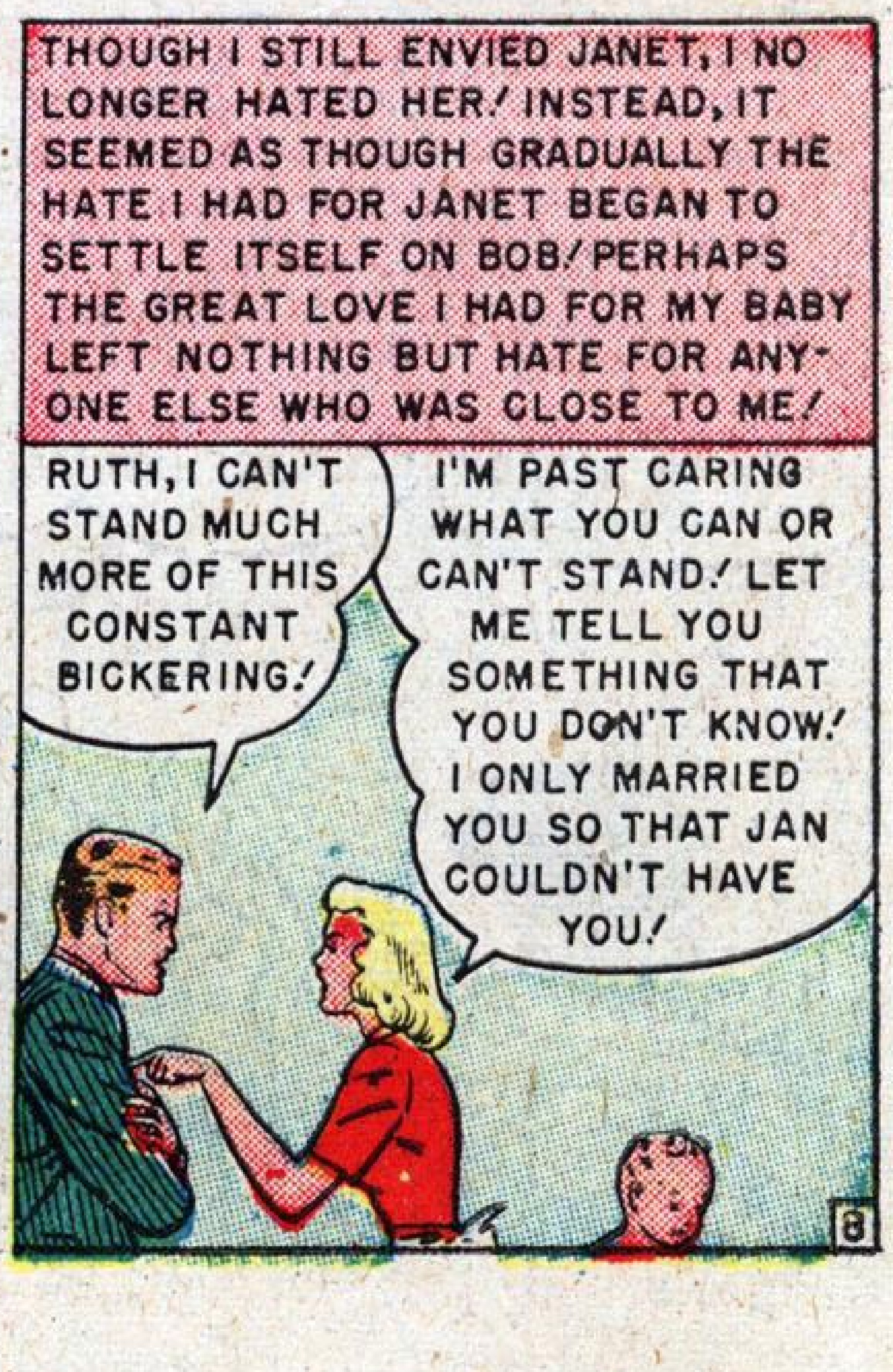

A FEW WEEKS LATER BOB AND I WERE QUIETLY MARRIED!
...I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE!

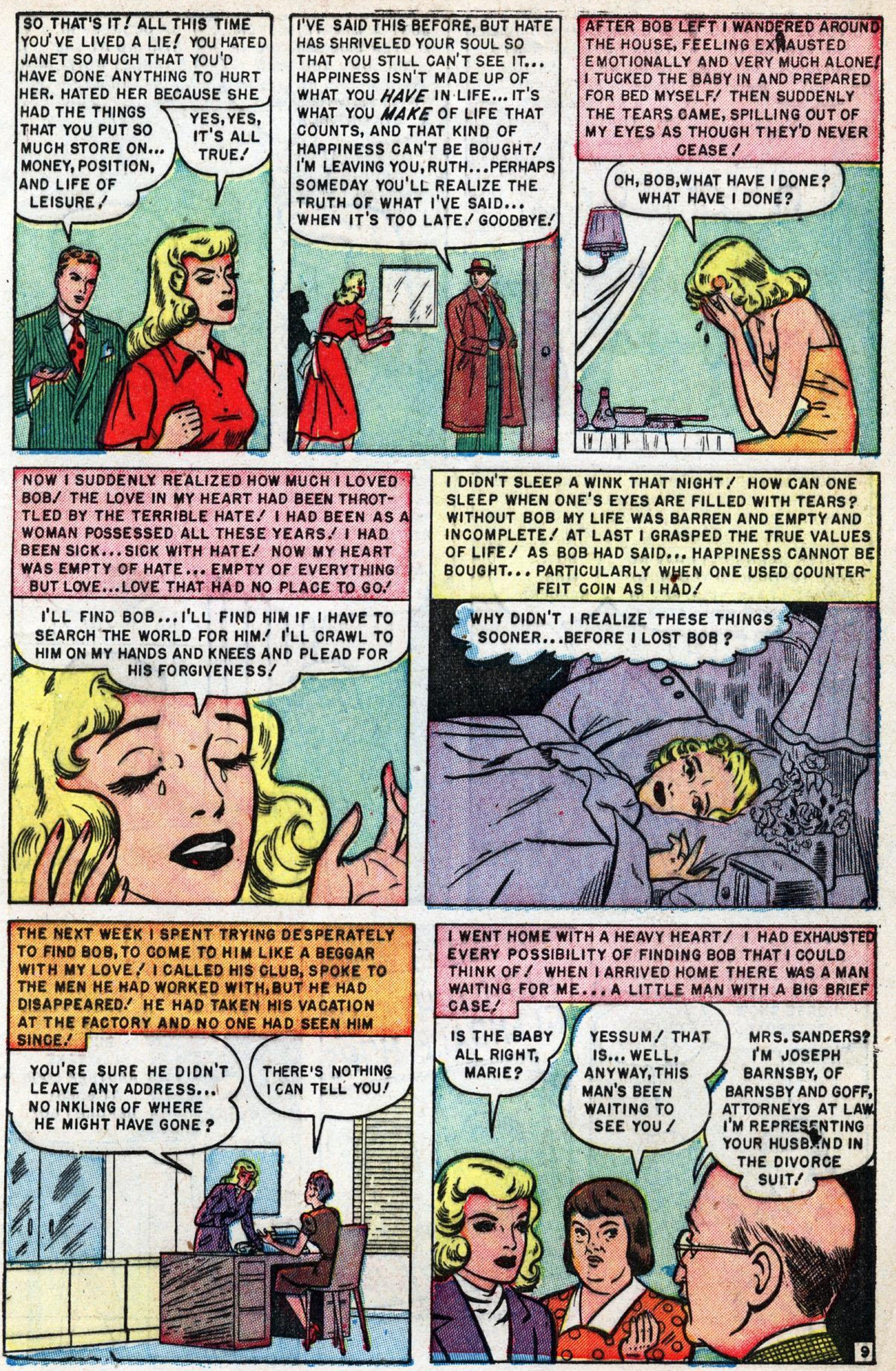

BOB AND I BOUGHT A LITTLE HOUSE IN A MIDDLE-CLASS NEIGHBORHOOD AND BEGAN OUR MIDDLE-CLASS MARRIED LIFE TOGETHER, JUST AS HAD MY MOTHER AND FATHER!
AFTER DINNER TONIGHT, LET'S TAKE IN A MOVIE! THERE'S A GOOD SHOW PLAYING AT THE BIJOU!
IF YOU WANT TO, BOB!


OF COURSE, YOU REALIZE WHAT HAD HAPPENED! IN MY MAD DESIRE TO HURT JANET, AND IN SOME MEASURE ENHANCE MY OWN EGO BY TAKING FROM HER THE ONE MAN SHE WANTED, I HAD TRAPPED MYSELF! TRAPPED MYSELF FOREVER INTO THE MIDDLE-CLASS EXISTENCE I ABHORRED! I BEGAN TO QUARREL WITH BOB...I HAD TO HAVE AN OUTLET FOR MY VENOM!
MOVIES, ONE NIGHT A WEEK! EATING OUT, THEN MORE MOVIES! I'M SICK TO DEATH OF IT, DO YOU HEAR? WHY CAN'T WE LIVE LIKE HUMAN BEINGS... HAVE DECENT VACATIONS... GO SOME PLACE EXCITING FOR A CHANGE?
I DON'T OWN THE FACTORY, RUTH, I SIMPLY WORK THERE!


THINGS WENT FROM BAD TO WORSE! BOB BEGAN TO SPEND MOST OF HIS FREE TIME AWAY FROM HOME ...AT THE CLUB OR WITH THE MEN HE WORKED WITH! THEN, EARLY IN OCTOBER, OUR BABY WAS BORN!
LOOK WHO'S COME TO VISIT, RUTH!
JAN!
WHY DIDN'T YOU LET ME KNOW, RUTH? OH, ISN'T HE THE SWEETEST THING YOU EVER SAW? YOUR MOTHER WROTE AND TOLD ME!


AFTER I CAME HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL WITH BABY IT SEEMED THAT I SPENT EVERY MOMENT QUARRELING WITH BOB!
GEE, HE SURE IS GETTING HUSKY!
CLOSE THE DOOR AND EITHER COME IN OR OUT... YOU'RE LETTING IN A DRAUGHT!


THOUGH I STILL ENVIED JANET, I NO LONGER HATED HER! INSTEAD, IT SEEMED AS THOUGH GRADUALLY THE HATE I HAD FOR JANET BEGAN TO SETTLE ITSELF ON BOB! PERHAPS THE GREAT LOVE I HAD FOR MY BABY LEFT NOTHING BUT HATE FOR ANYONE ELSE WHO WAS CLOSE TO ME!
RUTH, I CAN'T STAND MUCH MORE OF THIS CONSTANT BICKERING!
I'M PAST CARING WHAT YOU CAN OR CAN'T STAND! LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING THAT YOU DON'T KNOW! I ONLY MARRIED YOU SO THAT JAN COULDN'T HAVE YOU!


SO THAT'S IT! ALL THIS TIME YOU'VE LIVED A LIE! YOU HATED JANET SO MUCH THAT YOU'D HAVE DONE ANYTHING TO HURT HER. HATED HER BECAUSE SHE HAD THE THINGS THAT YOU PUT SO MUCH STORE ON... MONEY, POSITION, AND LIFE OF LEISURE!
YES, YES, IT'S ALL TRUE!
I'VE SAID THIS BEFORE, BUT HATE HAS SHRIVELED YOUR SOUL SO THAT YOU STILL CAN'T SEE IT... HAPPINESS ISN'T MADE UP OF WHAT YOU HAVE IN LIFE... IT'S WHAT YOU MAKE OF LIFE THAT COUNTS, AND THAT KIND OF HAPPINESS CAN'T BE BOUGHT! I'M LEAVING YOU, RUTH... PERHAPS SOMEDAY YOU'LL REALIZE THE TRUTH OF WHAT I'VE SAID... WHEN IT'S TOO LATE! GOODBYE!
AFTER BOB LEFT I WANDERED AROUND THE HOUSE, FEELING EXHAUSTED EMOTIONALLY AND VERY MUCH ALONE! I TUCKED THE BABY IN AND PREPARED FOR BED MYSELF! THEN SUDDENLY THE TEARS CAME, SPILLING OUT OF MY EYES AS THOUGH THEY'D NEVER CEASE!
OH, BOB, WHAT HAVE I DONE? WHAT HAVE I DONE?
NOW I SUDDENLY REALIZED HOW MUCH I LOVED BOB! THE LOVE IN MY HEART HAD BEEN THROTTLED BY THE TERRIBLE HATE! I HAD BEEN AS A WOMAN POSSESSED ALL THESE YEARS! I HAD BEEN SICK... SICK WITH HATE! NOW MY HEART WAS EMPTY OF HATE... EMPTY OF EVERYTHING BUT LOVE... LOVE THAT HAD NO PLACE TO GO!
I'LL FIND BOB... I'LL FIND HIM IF I HAVE TO SEARCH THE WORLD FOR HIM! I'LL CRAWL TO HIM ON MY HANDS AND KNEES AND PLEAD FOR HIS FORGIVENESS!
I DIDN'T SLEEP A WINK THAT NIGHT! HOW CAN ONE SLEEP WHEN ONE'S EYES ARE FILLED WITH TEARS? WITHOUT BOB MY LIFE WAS BARREN AND EMPTY AND INCOMPLETE! AT LAST I GRASPED THE TRUE VALUES OF LIFE! AS BOB HAD SAID... HAPPINESS CANNOT BE BOUGHT... PARTICULARLY WHEN ONE USED COUNTERFEIT COIN AS I HAD!
WHY DIDN'T I REALIZE THESE THINGS SOONER... BEFORE I LOST BOB?
THE NEXT WEEK I SPENT TRYING DESPERATELY TO FIND BOB, TO COME TO HIM LIKE A BEGGAR WITH MY LOVE! I CALLED HIS CLUB, SPOKE TO THE MEN HE HAD WORKED WITH, BUT HE HAD DISAPPEARED! HE HAD TAKEN HIS VACATION AT THE FACTORY AND NO ONE HAD SEEN HIM SINCE!
YOU'RE SURE HE DIDN'T LEAVE ANY ADDRESS... NO INKLING OF WHERE HE MIGHT HAVE GONE?
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN TELL YOU!
I WENT HOME WITH A HEAVY HEART! I HAD EXHAUSTED EVERY POSSIBILITY OF FINDING BOB THAT I COULD THINK OF! WHEN I ARRIVED HOME THERE WAS A MAN WAITING FOR ME... A LITTLE MAN WITH A BIG BRIEF CASE!
IS THE BABY ALL RIGHT, MARIE?
YESSUM! THAT IS... WELL, ANYWAY, THIS MAN'S BEEN WAITING TO SEE YOU!
MRS. SANDERS? I'M JOSEPH BARNSBY, OF BARNSBY AND GOFF, ATTORNEYS AT LAW. I'M REPRESENTING YOUR HUSBAND IN THE DIVORCE SUIT!

DIVORCE SUIT? YOU MEAN BOB WANTS A DIVORCE? BUT... BUT...
OF COURSE, MRS. SANDERS, YOUR HUSBAND WANTS TO DO WHATEVER YOU THINK IS BEST...IN REGARD TO A SETTLEMENT, THAT IS!
JUST A MINUTE, MISTER... MISTER BARNSBY! YOU'VE SEEN HIM... YOU MUST KNOW WHERE HE LIVES! THAT IS, WHERE HE'S STAYING NOW!
OF COURSE! HE'S STAYING AT THE STANLEY HOTEL IN GLENDALE!
I KNEW WHERE HE WAS NOW... NOTHING ELSE MATTERED! I MUST GET RID OF THIS LITTLE MAN AND GO TO BOB IMMEDIATELY... GO TO HIM AND LAY MY LOVE AT HIS FEET!"
MISTER BARNSBY, I HAVE NO TIME TO TALK TO YOU NOW! PLEASE LEAVE-- I'LL GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU LATER!
BUT... MRS. SANDERS...
MARIE, I MUST LEAVE FOR GLENDALE IMMEDIATELY! WILL YOU PLEASE STAY WITH LITTLE BOBBY? I'M SORRY IT HAS TO BE ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE, BUT WILL YOU STAY, PLEASE?
SURE I'LL STAY, MRS. SANDERS! SAY-- ISN'T THIS A PICTURE OF YOUR HUSBAND IN THE PAPER HERE?
IT DOESN'T MENTION HIS NAME BUT IT SURE LOOKS LIKE HIM! IT SAYS..."MISS JANET KINGSLEY, AT THE GLENDALE HORSE SHOW YESTERDAY..."
LET ME SEE IT!
HIGHLIGHTS OF GLENDALE HORS
MISS JANET KINGSLEY AT THE GLENDALE HORSE SHOW YESTERDAY WITH ROBERT SANDERS! MISS KIN
NEVER MIND, MARIE, I'M NOT GOING TO GLENDALE AFTER ALL! YOU... YOU CAN GO NOW!
TSK, TSK.. YOU SURE CHANGE YOUR MIND FAST! WELL, IT'S YOUR BUSINESS! I'LL TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT BOBBY BEFORE I GO!

NO, I WASN'T GOING TO GLENDALE! JAN AND BOB HAD FOUND EACH OTHER AGAIN AND I WOULDN'T COME BETWEEN THEM! IN MY NEW-FOUND HUMILITY, I FOUND IT IN MY BROKEN HEART TO WISH THEM WELL, THOSE TWO GRAND PEOPLE WHOM I KNEW NOW THAT I LOVED!
MRS. SANDERS...MRS. SANDERS, COME QUICK! SOMETHING'S THE MATTER WITH BOBBY... HE HAS A FEVER...BURNING UP!...HURRY!
BOBBY! MARIE... CALL DR. WILLET! TELL HIM TO COME IMMEDIATELY!
IT SEEMED HOURS BEFORE THE DOCTOR CAME, AND AS I WAITED I SAT BESIDE BOBBY'S CRIB, HELPLESSLY WATCHING MY DARLING, MY CHILD... MINE AND BOB'S... STRUGGLING FOR HIS LIFE! THEN THE DOCTOR CAME!
SORRY TO BE SO LONG, MRS. SANDERS! GOT HELD UP IN TRAFFIC! WELL, LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT THIS YOUNG MAN!
OH, DOCTOR, I'M AFRAID HE'S AWFULLY ILL!
DR. WILLET EXAMINED MY BABY AND THEN TURNED TO ME, AND MY HEART STOOD STILL AS I WAITED FOR HIM TO SPEAK!
I'M AFRAID YOU WERE RIGHT, MRS. SANDERS! YOU HAVE A VERY SICK CHILD! HE HAS A RUPTURED APPENDIX, UNUSUAL IN ONE SO YOUNG! WE MUST GET HIM TO THE HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY!
OH, MY BABY! MY BABY!
THERE, THERE, MRS. SANDERS, EVERYTHING WILL TURN OUT ALL RIGHT! YOU'LL SEE!
WE RUSHED TO THE HOSPITAL AND MY BOY WAS TAKEN FROM ME, INTO THE OPERATING ROOM, AND I WAS LEFT ALONE WITH NOTHING BUT THE PICTURE OF THAT SWEET YOUNG FACE, THOSE TINY HANDS! ALL I COULD DO NOW WAS...PRAY!
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I SAT THERE ALONE...IT SEEMED AS THOUGH TIME STRETCHED ON INTO ETERNITY! THEN I WASN'T ALONE ANY MORE...BOB AND JAN WERE BESIDE ME!
HOW IS HE, RUTH?
I DON'T KNOW! IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME BUT NO ONE'S COME...NO ONE'S COME TO TELL ME!
IT'S GOOD OF YOU TO COME, JAN, I...OH, JAN!
CRY, DARLING, CRY! IT WILL DO YOU GOOD! BUT DON'T WORRY... EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT... IT'S JUST GOT TO!

THEN THE DOCTOR CAME IN! I STOOD THERE MUTE, AFRAID TO ASK THE QUESTION THAT MY TORTURED HEART SCREAMED. AFRAID TO HEAR THE ANSWER!
HOW.. HOW IS HE, DOCTOR?
HE'S FINE, MISTER SANDERS! WE GOT HIM HERE IN TIME! HE'S ASLEEP-- BUT I KNOW YOU'LL WANT TO SEE HIM! THE NURSE WILL SHOW YOU THE WAY!
I'LL RUN ALONG NOW! I'LL BE BACK AGAIN TOMORROW TO SEE BOBBY AND, AS SOON AS HE'S REAL WELL, YOU AND BOB MUST BRING HIM UP TO MY PLACE AND WE'LL HAVE A GRAND TIME!
BOB AND I? BUT I THOUGHT...
I KNOW WHAT YOU THOUGHT BUT YOU WERE WRONG, DARLING! THAT'S ALL OVER-- I MEAN THE INFATUATION I HAD FOR BOB! I'M BEING MARRIED NEXT MONTH TO DAD'S PARTNER... YOU REMEMBER, GEORGE, THE POLO PLAYER! TWO PEOPLE AS MUCH IN LOVE AS YOU AND BOB SHOULDN'T ACT AS FOOLISHLY AS YOU HAVE! GOOD-BYE NOW!
SHE WAS GONE THEN, AND THE NURSE LED BOB AND ME INTO THE ROOM WHERE LITTLE BOBBY LAY ASLEEP!
YOU CAN STAY AS LONG AS YOU LIKE! THAT YOUNG MAN WON'T BE AWAKE FOR HOURS! I'LL BE BACK LATER!
THANK YOU, NURSE!
BOBBY... BOBBY!
I LOOKED AT MY SON, LOOKED FOR LONG MINUTES AS THOUGH MEMORIZING EVERY SWEET CURVE OF HIS FACE! THEN I LOOKED UP ACROSS THE BED TO BOB, AND WE SMILED AT EACH OTHER THROUGH OUR THANKFUL TEARS!
BOB, DARLING, CAN YOU EVER FIND IT IN YOUR HEART TO FORGIVE ME?
YES, DEAREST! IT'S EASY TO FORGIVE THE ONE YOU LOVE ... AS I LOVE YOU!
ACROSS THE BED OF OUR SLEEPING CHILD OUR HANDS MET-- AND CLASPED IN A GESTURE THAT WAS MORE THAN A KISS, MORE THAN A PROMISE.. IT WAS A SYMBOL OF THE ESSENCE OF LOVE ETERNAL!
YOU WERE RIGHT, MY DARLING.. HAPPINESS MUST BE EARNED.. IT CAN'T BE BOUGHT!
WE'LL START ALL OVER, DEAREST, AND FORGET OUR PAST! OUR FUTURE LIES BEFORE US ALL SUNSWEPT AND NEW!
SO I FOUND MY HAPPINESS THROUGH HATE, HEARTBREAK AND TEARS, AND FELT IT MORE PRECIOUS FOR ALL OF THAT! WITH A SINGING HEART I LOOKED FORWARD TO OUR MIDDLE-CLASS LIFE TOGETHER, BOB, YOUNG BOBBY, AND I! FOR IN THE SECURITY OF OUR LOVE I COULD REACH TO THE HEAVENS AND DANCE AMONG THE STARS, AND WHO COULD WANT MORE OF LIFE THAN THAT?
THE END

MARVEL
COMIC GROUP

a letter to our readers and their PARENTS!

HI, FRIENDS:

It has been reliably reported that in England, back in the 18th Century, book stores were called "slop shops of literature," simply because they sold novels. And that was the century in which some of our greatest classics were written, the century of Dafoe, who wrote *Robinson Crusoe*, and Swift and his *Gulliver's Travels*. It was also the century of Dr. Samuel Johnson, one of the brightest stars in the history of English literature. And it was Dr Johnson who most vociferously defended the right of booksellers to sell the new, much abused novels and the right of authors to express themselves in this medium if they desired.

But what Dr Johnson defended most enthusiastically was the right of the public to *read what they wanted to read*. And what we are defending is the right of youngsters to read whichever they like of the many, many good, clean comics currently being published.

Just as the critics of the 18th Century rapped the books which are now classics, in the same way there are critics of today, screaming and tearing out their hair, because a new kind of magazine, still in its infancy, is not to their liking. And as in the case of the novel, it is still too early for any man to pass judgment on the comics.

Let these critics of today look to their history Let them decide if they want to be remembered as the 20th Century counterpart of the people who called Robinson Crusoe "slop"

And let the people of America decide if they want to be swayed by critics exercising premature judgment or if they want to wait and watch, and soon realize that most comic magazines are really good, clean, healthful and entertaining reading matter.

THE EDITORS,
MARVEL COMIC GROUP

P S.—Remember: Dr Jean Thompson, School Psychiatrist, Child Guidance Bureau, New York City Board of Education, is now our Editorial Consultant. Dr. Thompson's professional examination of our magazines, as advisor to our staff, (see Page 1) is your guarantee that the Marvel Comic Group magazines are striving to bring you the very best in reading matter . . and it is also your best argument that no one should ever take away your right to read these magazines.

RED UNIT

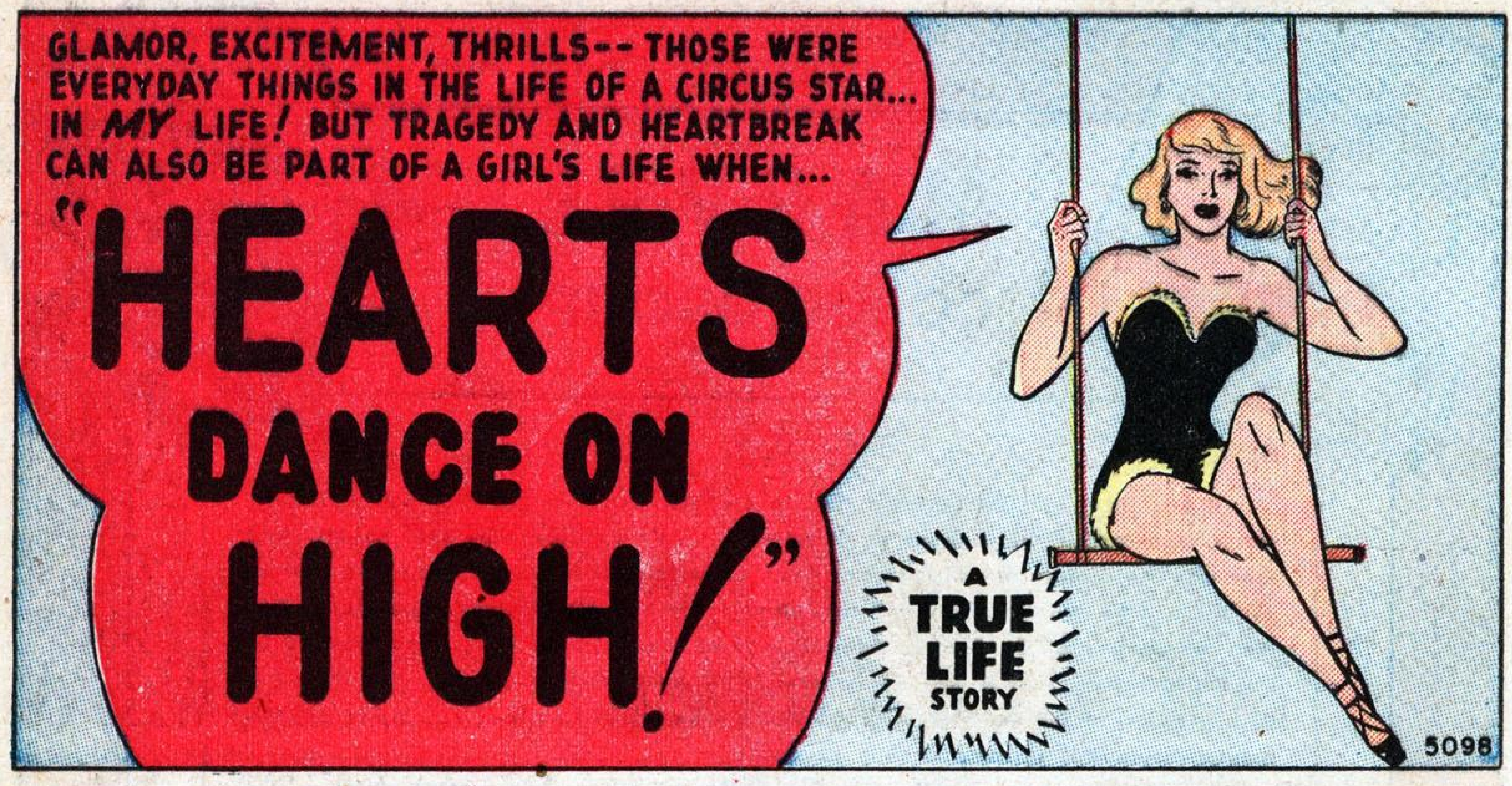
ALL WESTERN WINNERS
BLAZE CARSON
BLONDE PHANTOM
CAPTAIN AMERICA
CINDY
COMEDY COMICS
GEORGIE AND JUDY
HEDY DeVINE
HUMAN TORCH
JEANIE
JOKER COMICS
KID COLT
LANA
MARGIE
MARVEL MYSTERY COMICS
MILLIE THE MODEL
NELLIE THE NURSE
PATSY WALKER
SUB MARINER
TEEN COMICS
TESSIE THE TYPIST
TEX MORGAN
TEX TAYLOR
TWO GUN KID
WILD WESTERN
WILLIE

BLUE-YELLOW UNIT

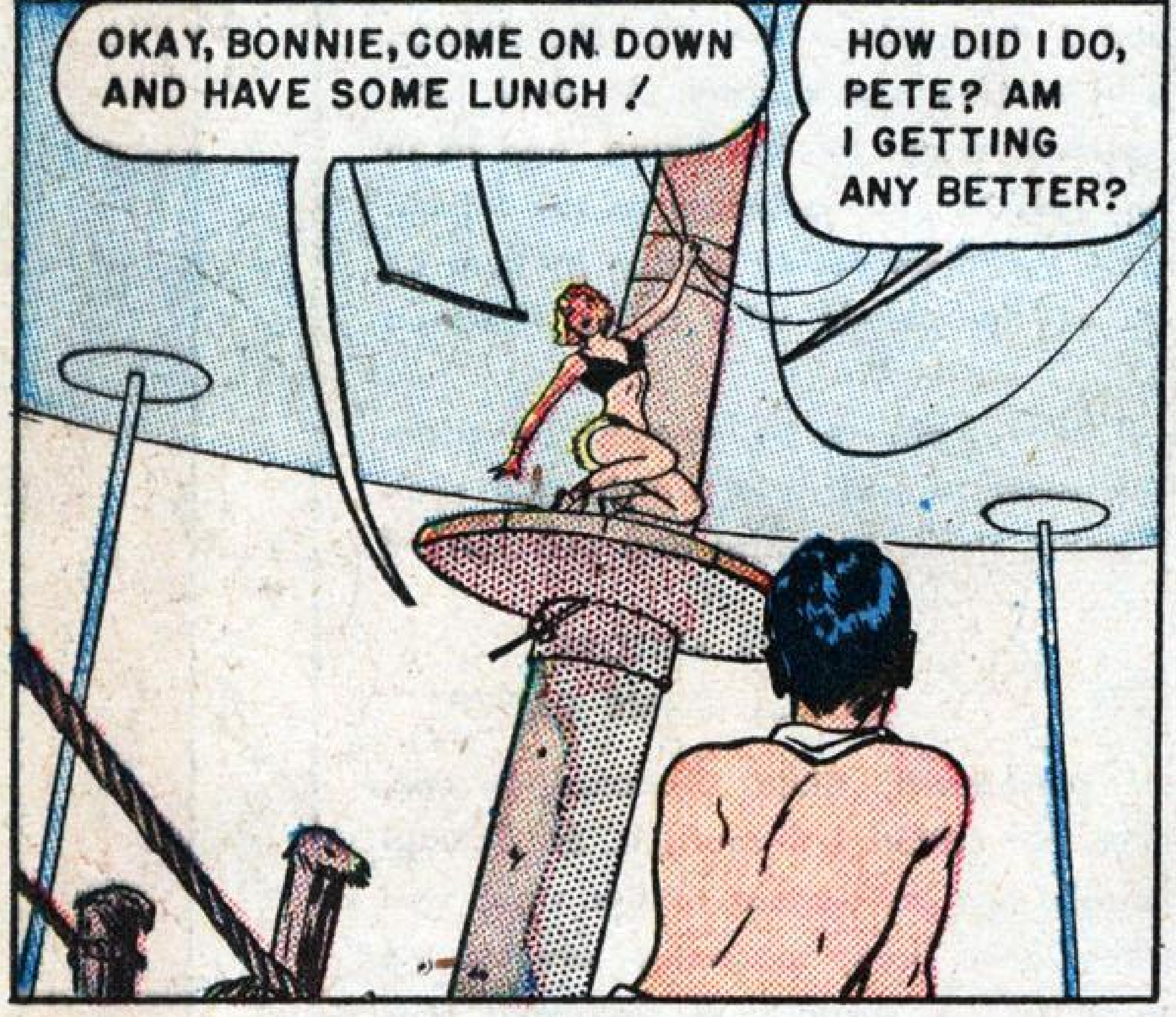
ALL TRUE CRIME CASES
COMPLETE MYSTERY
CRIMEFIGHTERS ALWAYS WIN
FRANKIE AND LANA
GAY COMICS
IDEAL COMICS
JUNIOR MISS
JUSTICE COMICS
LAWBREAKERS ALWAYS LOSE
MITZI'S BOY FRIEND
MY ROMANCE
OSCAR

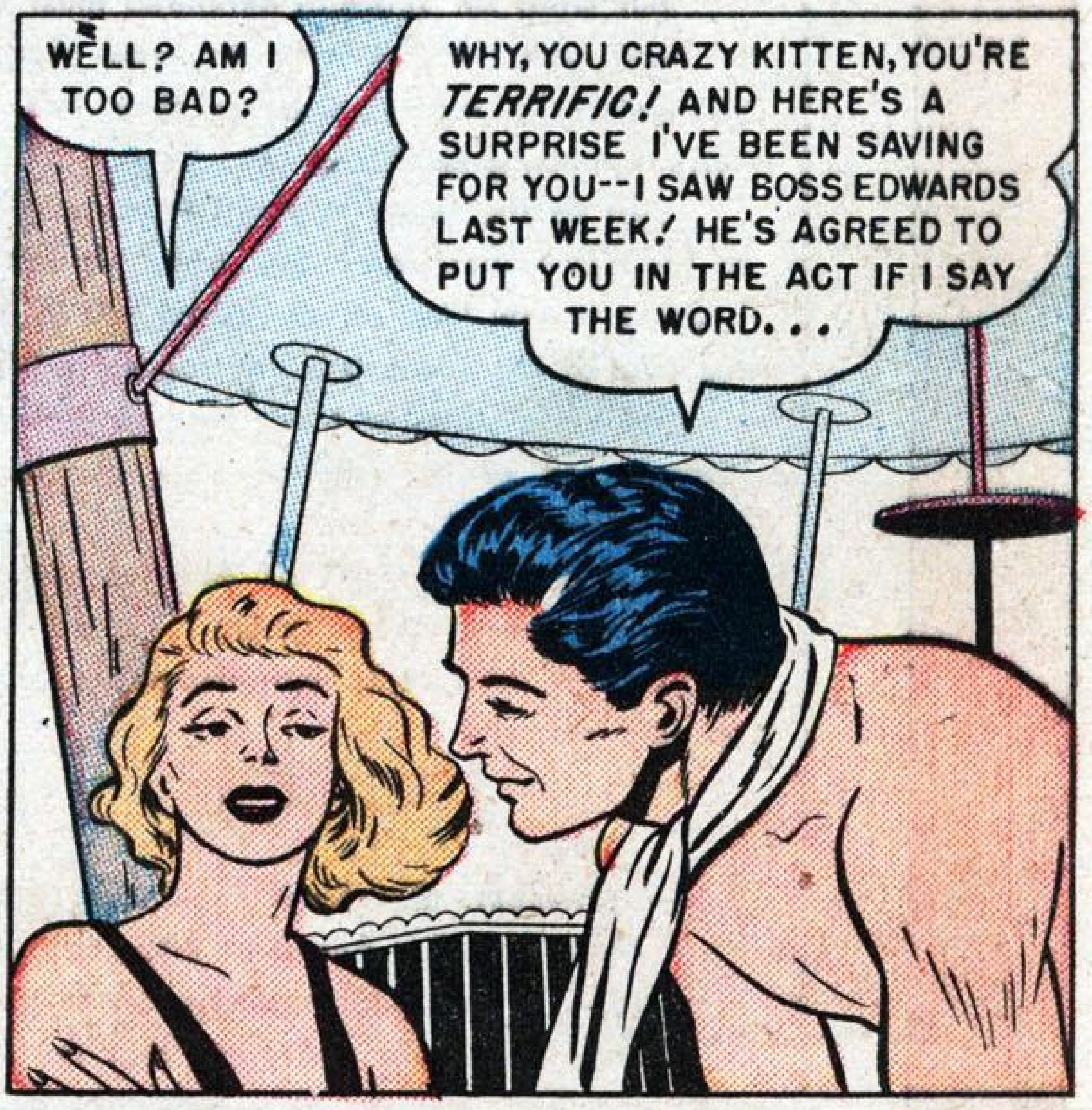
GLAMOR, EXCITEMENT, THRILLS-- THOSE WERE EVERYDAY THINGS IN THE LIFE OF A CIRCUS STAR... IN *MY* LIFE! BUT TRAGEDY AND HEARTBREAK CAN ALSO BE PART OF A GIRL'S LIFE WHEN...

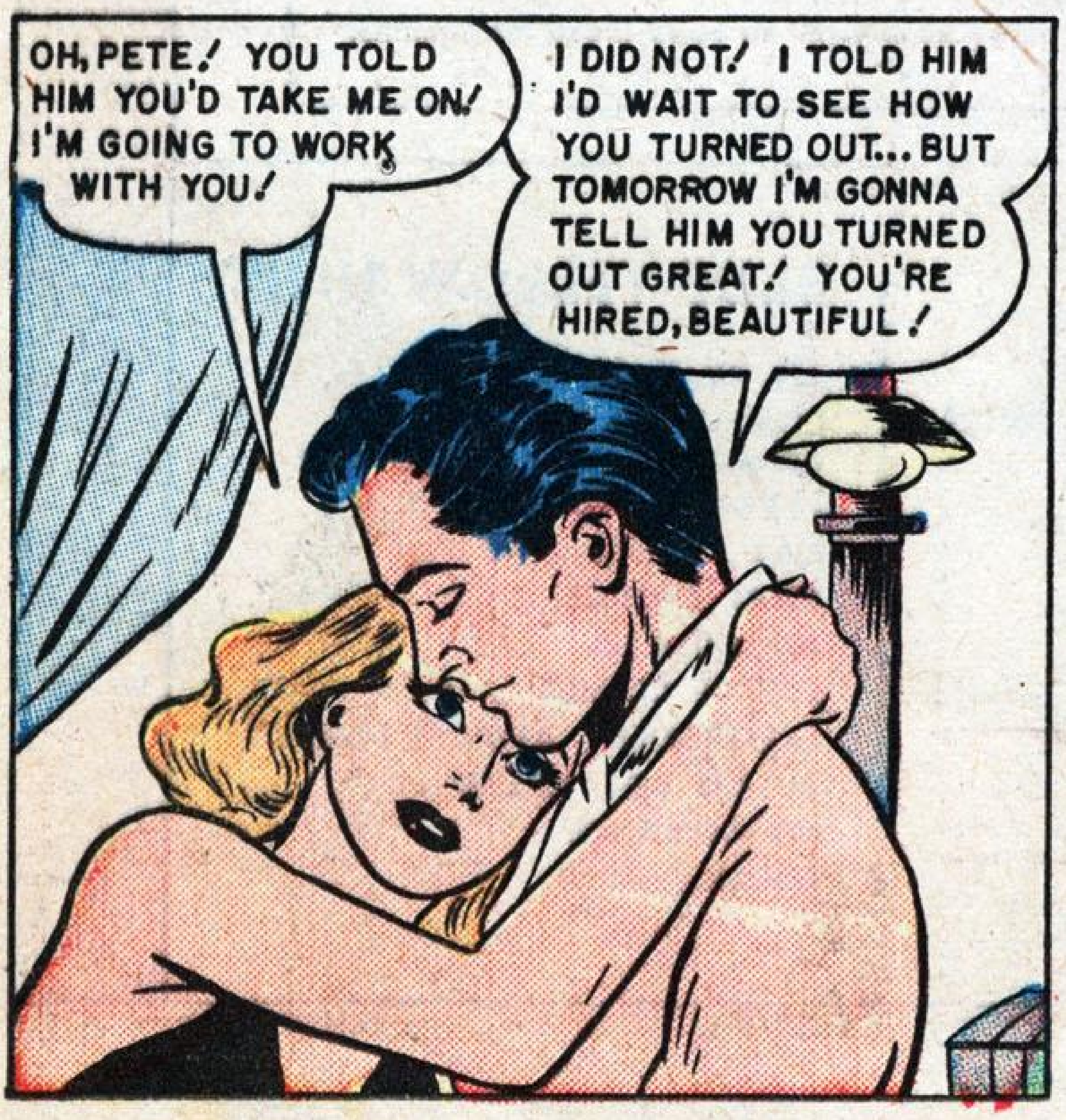
"HEARTS DANCE ON HIGH!"


A TRUE LIFE STORY
5098

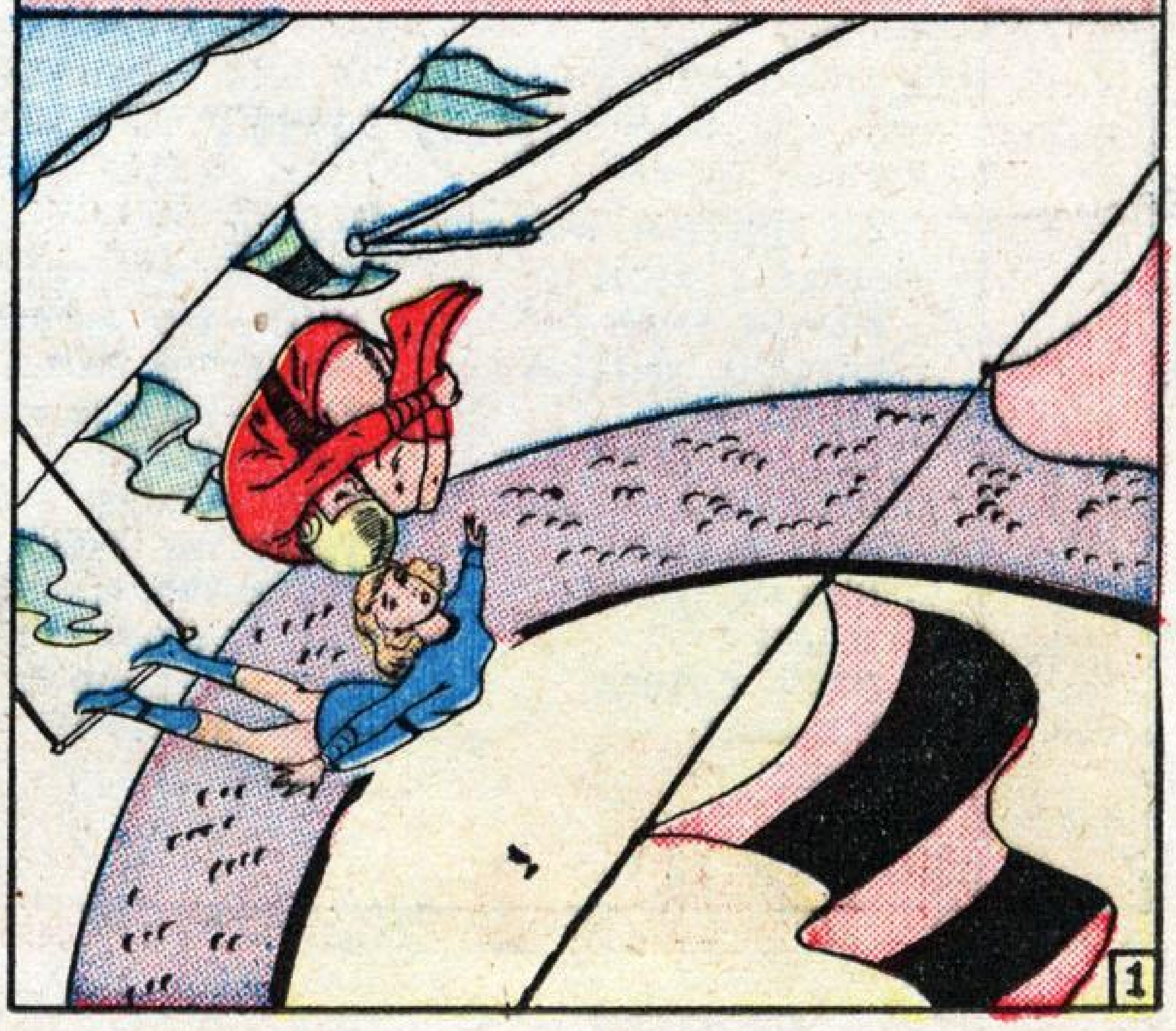
OF COURSE I WASN'T ALWAYS A STAR IN THE BIG SHOW. I WORKED HARD FOR MY FIRST BREAK--IT CAME AT THE CIRCUS TRAINING QUARTERS IN FLORIDA . . .

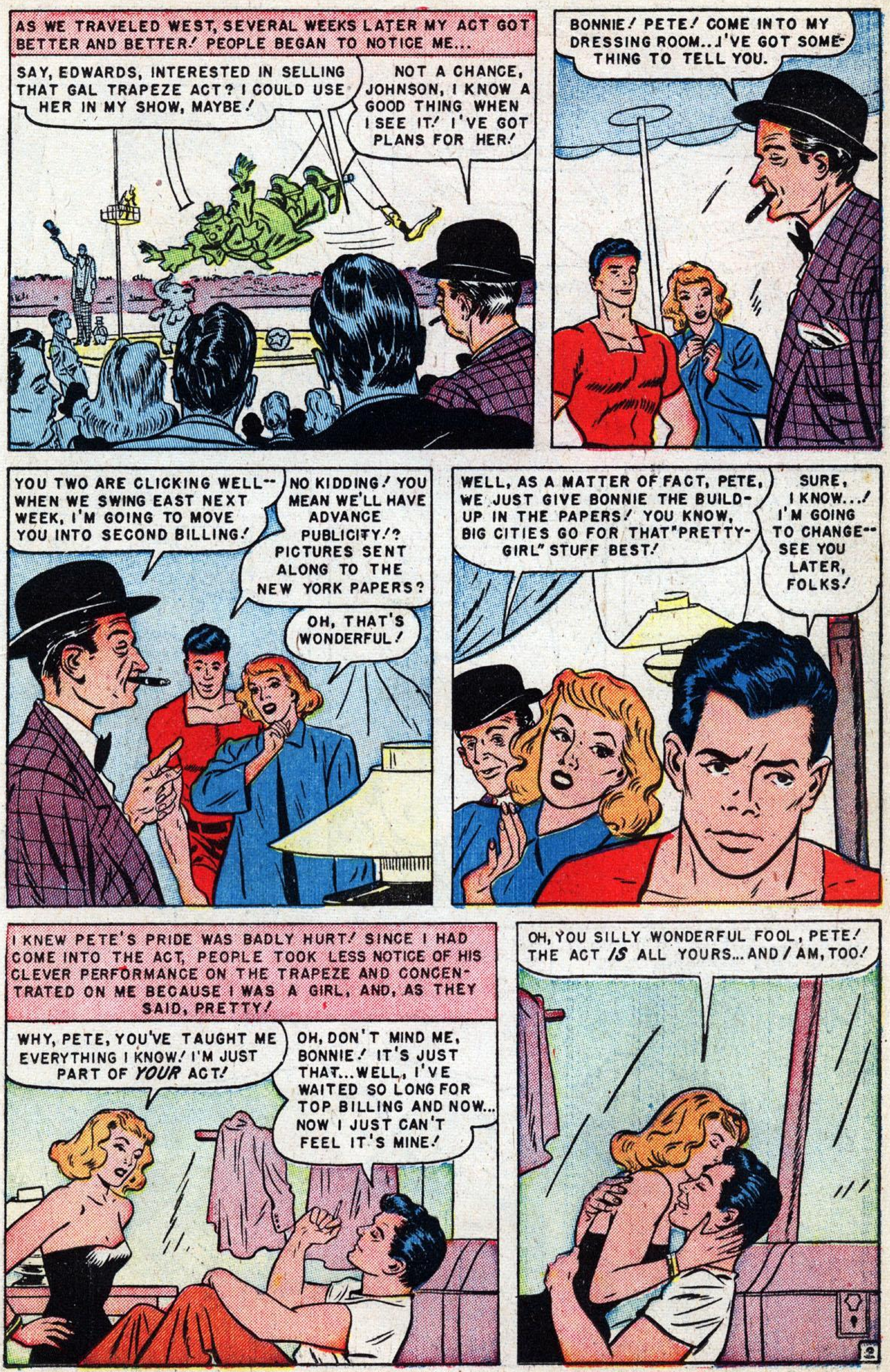

OKAY, BONNIE, COME ON DOWN AND HAVE SOME LUNCH!
HOW DID I DO, PETE? AM I GETTING ANY BETTER?


WELL? AM I TOO BAD?
WHY, YOU CRAZY KITTEN, YOU'RE *TERRIFIC!* AND HERE'S A SURPRISE I'VE BEEN SAVING FOR YOU--I SAW BOSS EDWARDS LAST WEEK! HE'S AGREED TO PUT YOU IN THE ACT IF I SAY THE WORD...

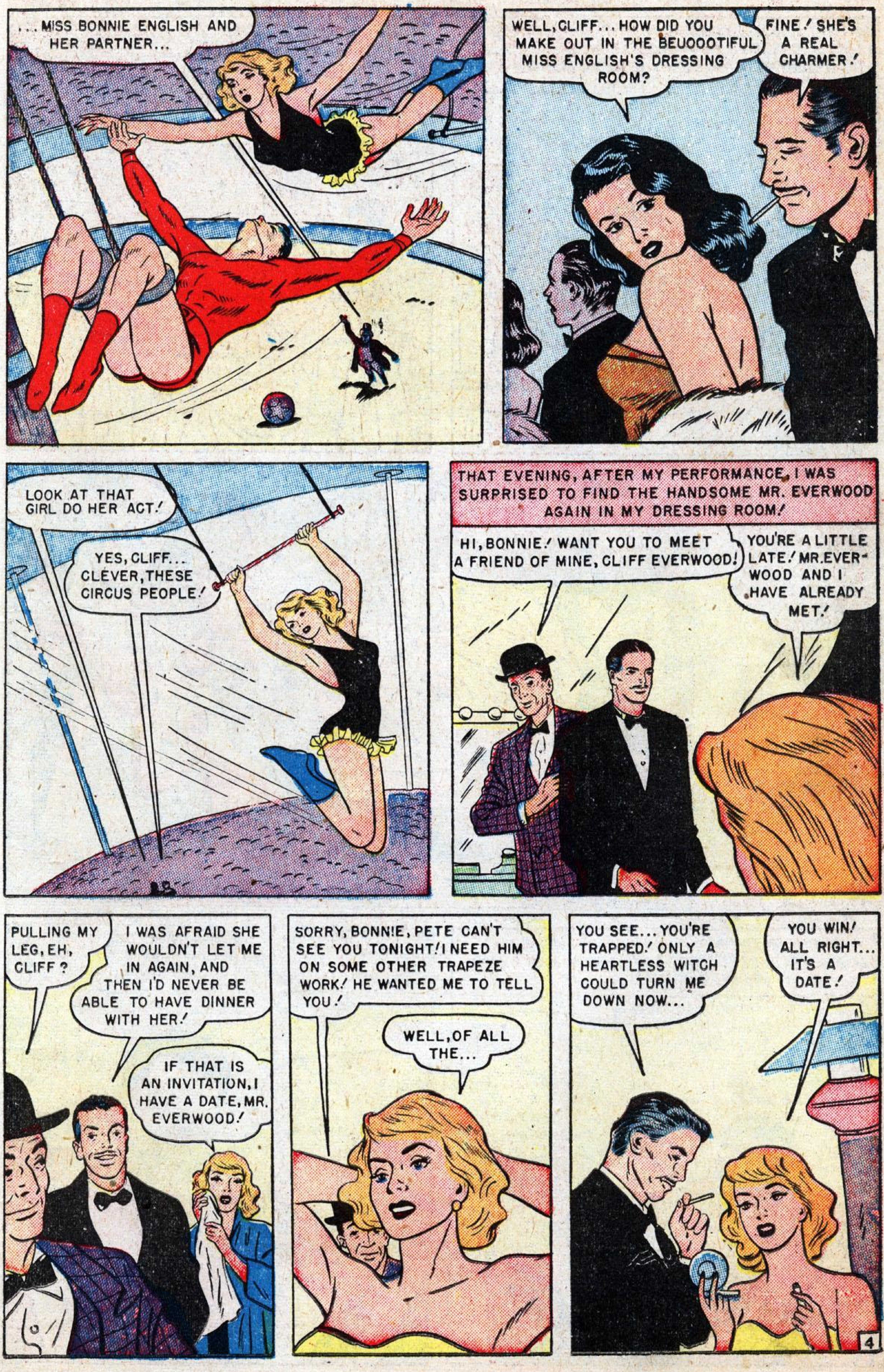

OH, PETE! YOU TOLD HIM YOU'D TAKE ME ON! I'M GOING TO WORK WITH YOU!
I DID NOT! I TOLD HIM I'D WAIT TO SEE HOW YOU TURNED OUT... BUT TOMORROW I'M GONNA TELL HIM YOU TURNED OUT GREAT! YOU'RE HIRED, BEAUTIFUL!

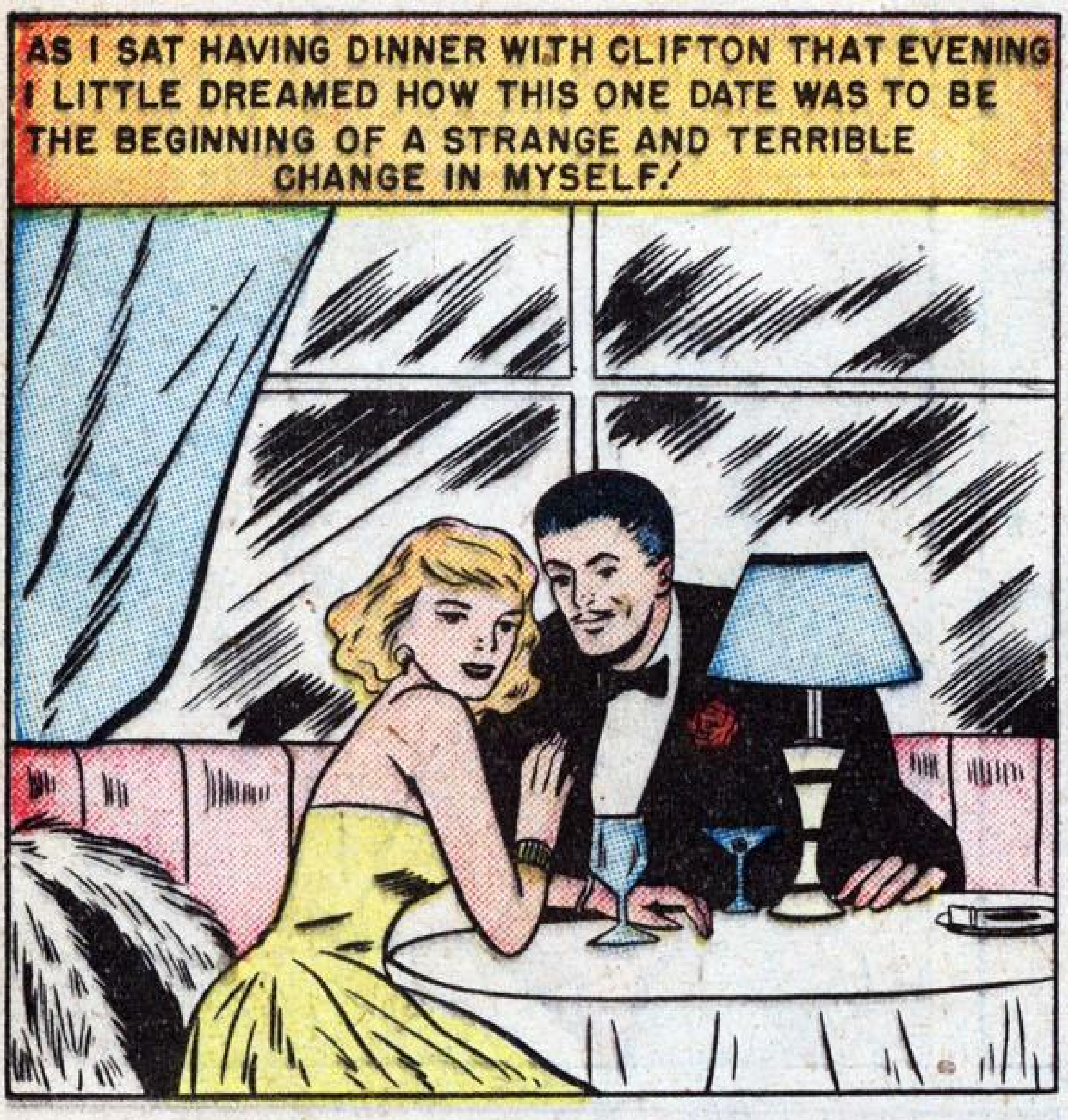
AND SO I STARTED MY CIRCUS CAREER! TWO MONTHS LATER WE OPENED IN NEW ORLEANS... I HAD ONLY A SMALL PART IN THE ACT, BUT I WAS THRILLED...

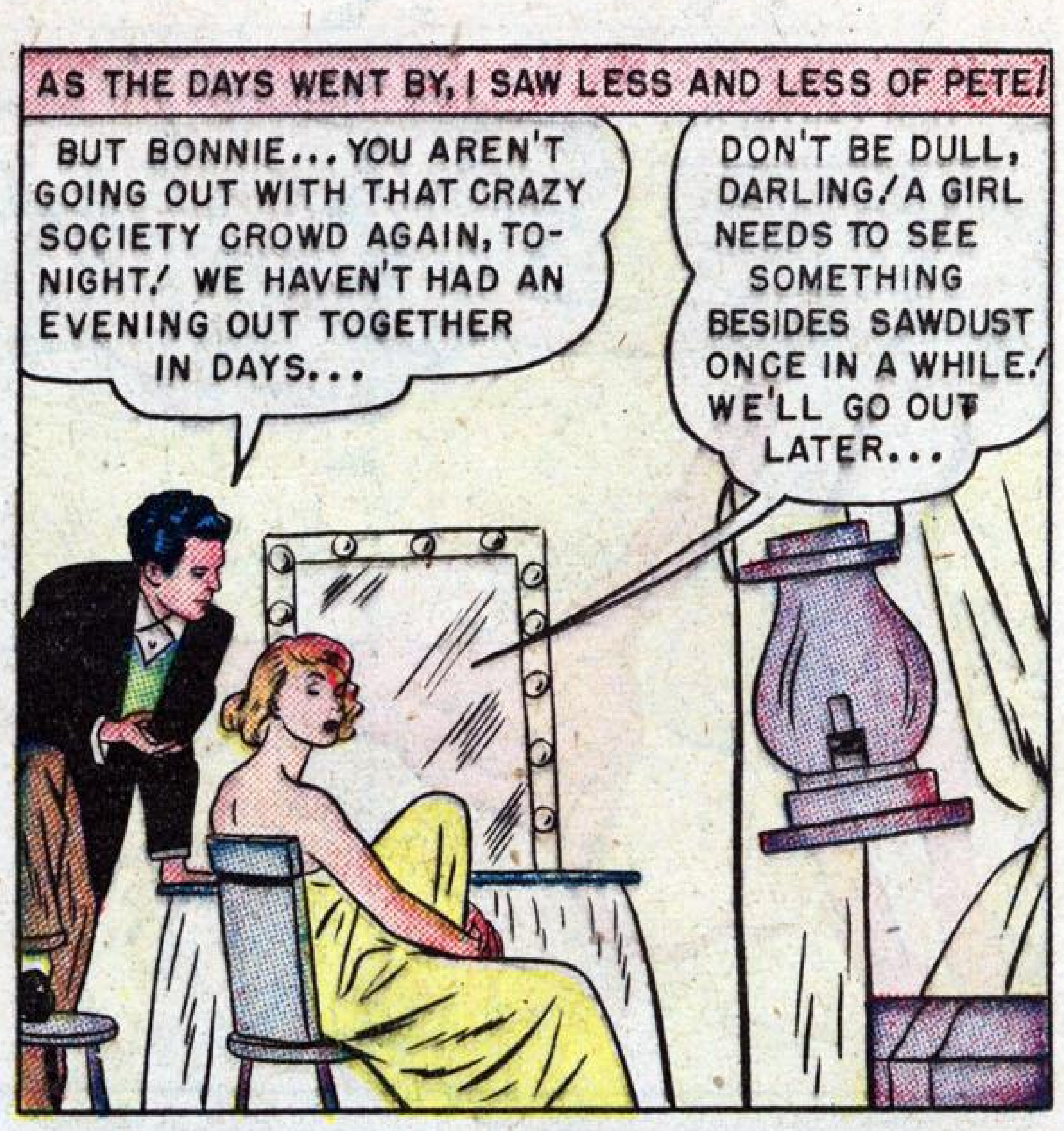



AS WE TRAVELED WEST, SEVERAL WEEKS LATER MY ACT GOT BETTER AND BETTER! PEOPLE BEGAN TO NOTICE ME...
SAY, EDWARDS, INTERESTED IN SELLING THAT GAL TRAPEZE ACT? I COULD USE HER IN MY SHOW, MAYBE!
NOT A CHANCE, JOHNSON, I KNOW A GOOD THING WHEN I SEE IT! I'VE GOT PLANS FOR HER!
BONNIE! PETE! COME INTO MY DRESSING ROOM.. I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO TELL YOU.
YOU TWO ARE CLICKING WELL-- WHEN WE SWING EAST NEXT WEEK, I'M GOING TO MOVE YOU INTO SECOND BILLING!
NO KIDDING! YOU MEAN WE'LL HAVE ADVANCE PUBLICITY!? PICTURES SENT ALONG TO THE NEW YORK PAPERS?
OH, THAT'S WONDERFUL!
WELL, AS A MATTER OF FACT, PETE, WE JUST GIVE BONNIE THE BUILD-UP IN THE PAPERS! YOU KNOW, BIG CITIES GO FOR THAT "PRETTY-GIRL" STUFF BEST!
SURE, I KNOW...! I'M GOING TO CHANGE-- SEE YOU LATER, FOLKS!
I KNEW PETE'S PRIDE WAS BADLY HURT! SINCE I HAD COME INTO THE ACT, PEOPLE TOOK LESS NOTICE OF HIS CLEVER PERFORMANCE ON THE TRAPEZE AND CONCENTRATED ON ME BECAUSE I WAS A GIRL, AND, AS THEY SAID, PRETTY!
WHY, PETE, YOU'VE TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING I KNOW! I'M JUST PART OF *YOUR* ACT!
OH, DON'T MIND ME, BONNIE! IT'S JUST THAT... WELL, I'VE WAITED SO LONG FOR TOP BILLING AND NOW... NOW I JUST CAN'T FEEL IT'S MINE!
OH, YOU SILLY WONDERFUL FOOL, PETE! THE ACT *IS* ALL YOURS... AND *I* AM, TOO!

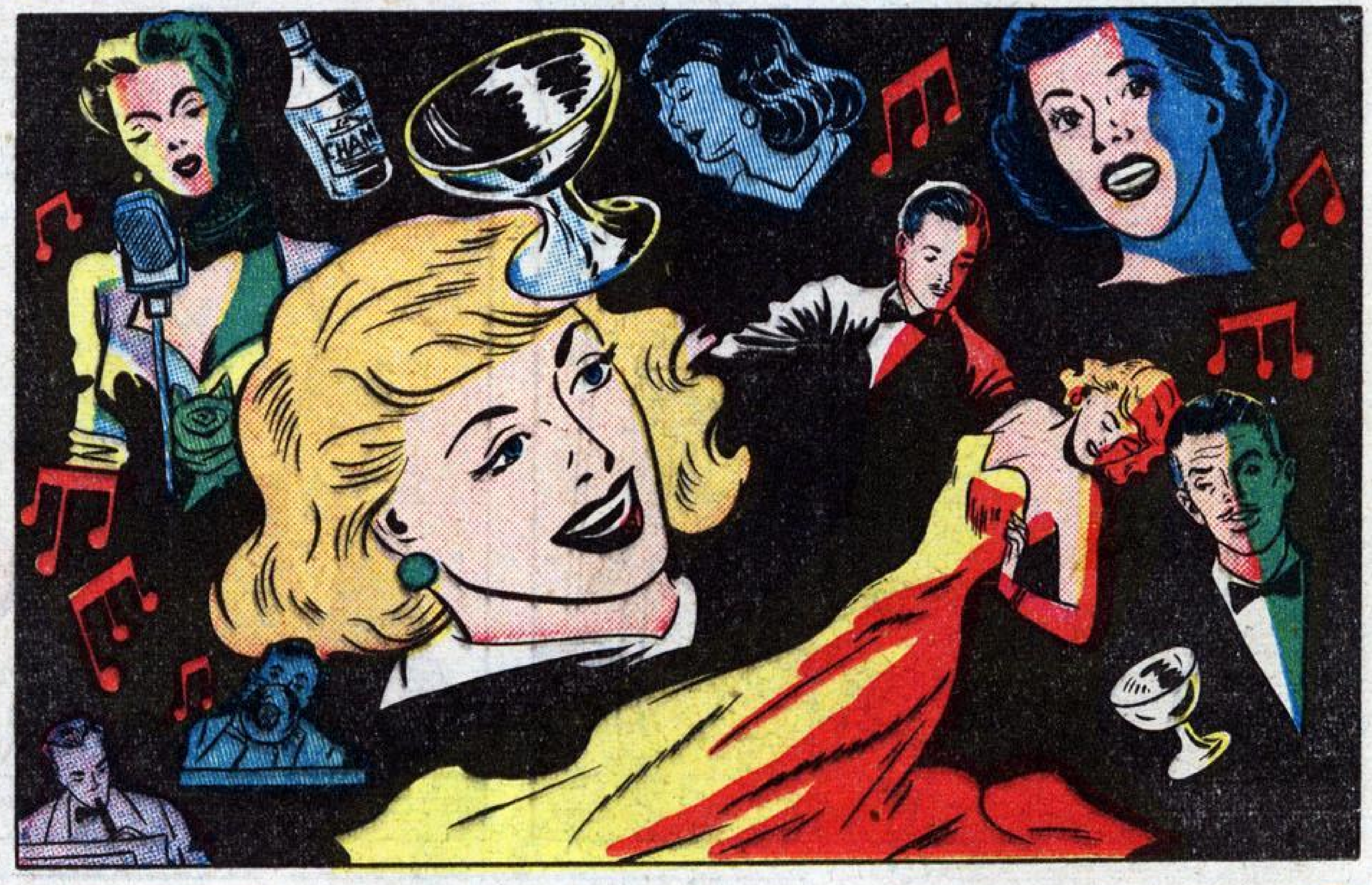
THE CIRCUS TRAVELED TO BOSTON AND PHILADELPHIA AND LIFE WAS ONE GRAND MERRY-GO-ROUND OF HAPPINESS FOR ME! PETE WAS WITH ME EVERY MOMENT...UNDER THE TENT AND OUT OF IT...
IT'S GRAND TO BE ON TOP OF THE WORLD, DEAR! I HAVE EVERYTHING...
WE'RE GOING HIGHER YET! EDWARDS TELLS ME YOU'RE GOING TO BE BILLED "NO. 1" WHEN WE HIT NEW YORK!
WHEN WILL YOU EVER LEARN? WE'RE GOING TO BE BILLED "NO. 1"... BUT I'M NOT SURPRISED, DARLING! AFTER OUR SUCCESS IN BOSTON, I THOUGHT WE MIGHT...
I'VE BEEN THINKING THE SAME THING, SWEETHEART! WE'LL BE MARRIED AS SOON AS WE CAN AFFORD IT!
YES, I CAME INTO NEW YORK DANCING ON AIR... AND IT WAS HERE I MET CLIFTON EVERWOOD.
BONNIE, HONEY, THERE'S A REAL OOMPH MAN OUTSIDE...WANTS TO SEE YOU!
OH, I CAN'T SEE ANYONE NOW, GLADYS--I'M ON IN TWO MINUTES...
...AND WHAT I HAVE TO SAY WILL TAKE JUST HALF THAT TIME-- A HUMBLE BOUQUET FOR A GRAND PERFORMANCE!
BUT I HAVEN'T GONE ON YET!
AH, NO--BUT I SAW YOU IN BOSTON, IN PHILADELPHIA, AND IN ALL MY DREAMS!
HOW SWEET! WELL, THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR...ER..
EVERWOOD... CLIFTON EVERWOOD, YOUR HUMBLE ADMIRER!
THANK YOU, MR. EVERWOOD! I'M ON NOW...
AND NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, OUR SUPER-SPECIAL AND REMARKABLE FEATURE ACT OF THE EVENING...THE BEAUOOOTIFUL YOUNG LADY WHO DANCES IN AIR AND DEFIES DEATH WITH EVERY GRACEFUL MOVEMENT...

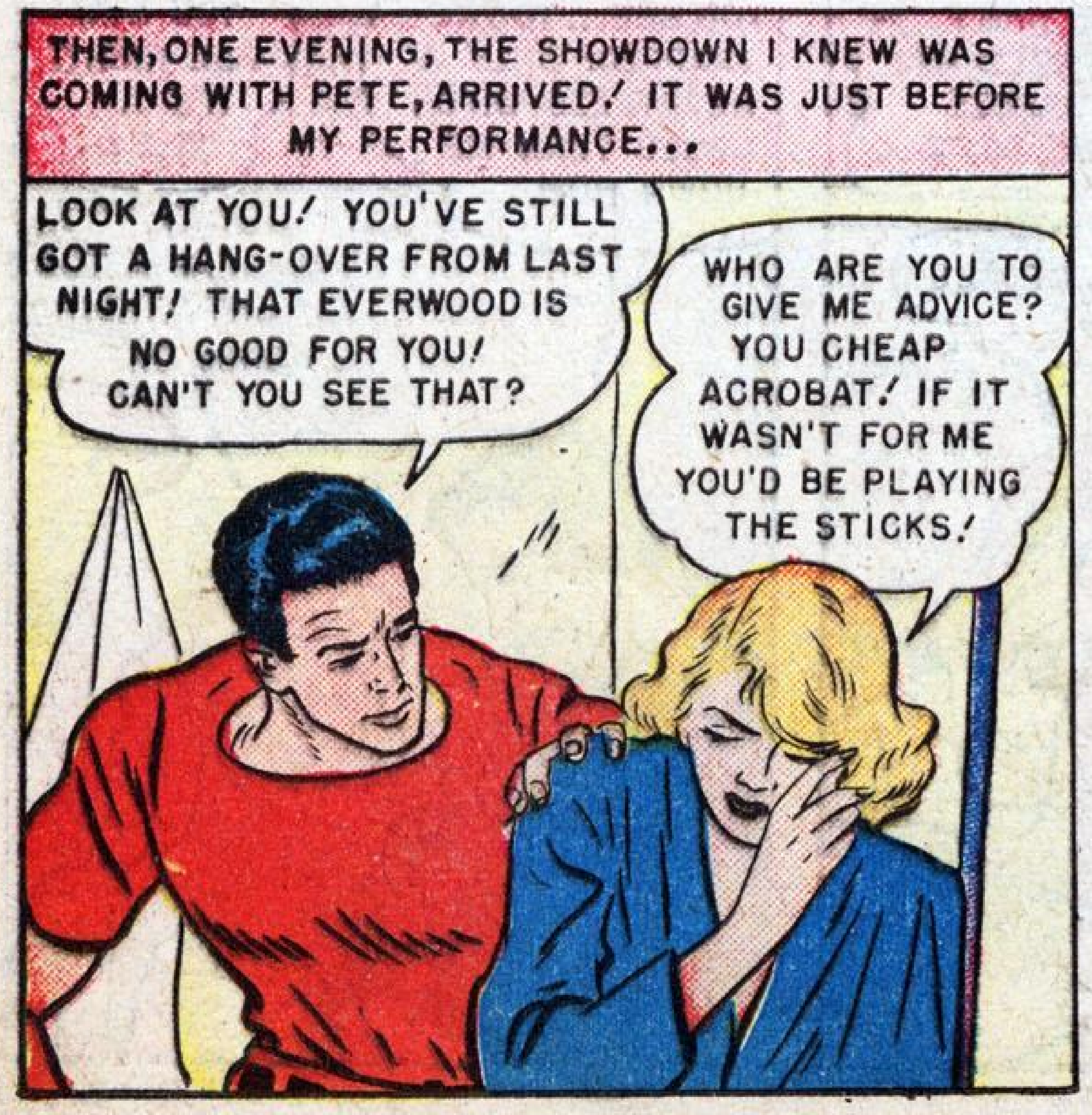

...MISS BONNIE ENGLISH AND HER PARTNER...
WELL, CLIFF... HOW DID YOU MAKE OUT IN THE BEUOOOTIFUL MISS ENGLISH'S DRESSING ROOM?
FINE! SHE'S A REAL CHARMER!
LOOK AT THAT GIRL DO HER ACT!
YES, CLIFF... CLEVER, THESE CIRCUS PEOPLE!
THAT EVENING, AFTER MY PERFORMANCE, I WAS SURPRISED TO FIND THE HANDSOME MR. EVERWOOD AGAIN IN MY DRESSING ROOM!
HI, BONNIE! WANT YOU TO MEET A FRIEND OF MINE, CLIFF EVERWOOD!
YOU'RE A LITTLE LATE! MR. EVERWOOD AND I HAVE ALREADY MET!
PULLING MY LEG, EH, CLIFF?
I WAS AFRAID SHE WOULDN'T LET ME IN AGAIN, AND THEN I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO HAVE DINNER WITH HER!
IF THAT IS AN INVITATION, I HAVE A DATE, MR. EVERWOOD!
SORRY, BONNIE, PETE CAN'T SEE YOU TONIGHT! I NEED HIM ON SOME OTHER TRAPEZE WORK! HE WANTED ME TO TELL YOU!
WELL, OF ALL THE...
YOU SEE... YOU'RE TRAPPED! ONLY A HEARTLESS WITCH COULD TURN ME DOWN NOW...
YOU WIN! ALL RIGHT... IT'S A DATE!

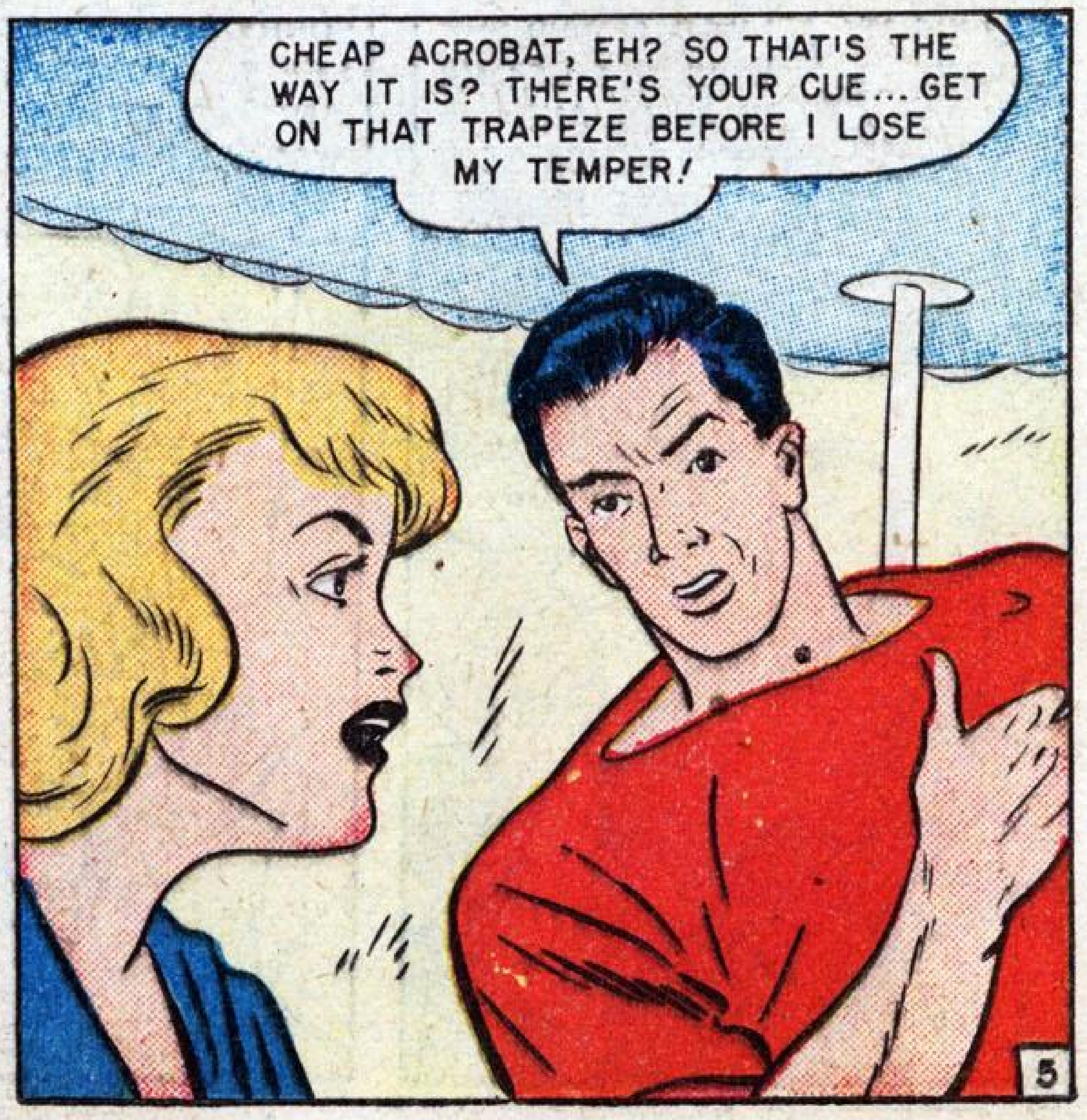

AS I SAT HAVING DINNER WITH CLIFTON THAT EVENING I LITTLE DREAMED HOW THIS ONE DATE WAS TO BE THE BEGINNING OF A STRANGE AND TERRIBLE CHANGE IN MYSELF!


AS THE DAYS WENT BY, I SAW LESS AND LESS OF PETE!
BUT BONNIE... YOU AREN'T GOING OUT WITH THAT CRAZY SOCIETY CROWD AGAIN, TO-NIGHT! WE HAVEN'T HAD AN EVENING OUT TOGETHER IN DAYS...
DON'T BE DULL, DARLING! A GIRL NEEDS TO SEE SOMETHING BESIDES SAWDUST ONCE IN A WHILE! WE'LL GO OUT LATER...

CLIFTON HAD SWEPT ME UP IN A GLORIOUS WHIRL OF COCKTAIL PARTIES, BRIGHT LIGHTS AND SOCIAL MADCAP! IT WAS ALL NEW AND WONDERFUL TO ME, AND I THREW MYSELF INTO IT RECKLESSLY...




THEN, ONE EVENING, THE SHOWDOWN I KNEW WAS COMING WITH PETE, ARRIVED! IT WAS JUST BEFORE MY PERFORMANCE...
LOOK AT YOU! YOU'VE STILL GOT A HANG-OVER FROM LAST NIGHT! THAT EVERWOOD IS NO GOOD FOR YOU! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT?
WHO ARE YOU TO GIVE ME ADVICE? YOU CHEAP ACROBAT! IF IT WASN'T FOR ME YOU'D BE PLAYING THE STICKS!


CHEAP ACROBAT, EH? SO THAT'S THE WAY IT IS? THERE'S YOUR CUE... GET ON THAT TRAPEZE BEFORE I LOSE MY TEMPER!

I WAS ON JUST TEN MINUTES WHEN IT HAPPENED! I HEARD A TERRIBLE SNAP AND SUDDENLY THE TRAPEZE WAS GONE!
SNAP!
A SAFETY NET BROKE MY FALL BUT I WAS HYSTERICAL!
PETE WANTED TO KILL ME! HE DID IT! HE BROKE THE TRAPEZE WIRE!
THE NEXT DAY THEY LET CLIFTON SEE ME AT THE HOSPITAL...
OH, CLIFF, WHAT HAPPENED? PETE AND I HAD A FIGHT AND...
NOW, JUST RELAX, HONEY! THE POLICE QUESTIONED PETE AFTER YOU SCREAMED HE DID IT! THEY LET HIM GO--IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT! THE WIRE WAS RUSTED AND SNAPPED!
WELL, HE WAS MAD ENOUGH TO DO IT! HEAVEN KNOWS HOW LONG I'LL BE OUT OF THE SHOW!
THE DOCTOR SAYS YOU'RE SUFFERING MOSTLY FROM SHOCK AND...
YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE NOW, MR. EVERWOOD... THE DOCTOR WISHES TO SEE MISS ENGLISH!
I'VE JUST EXAMINED THE X-RAYS, MISS ENGLISH! I'M SORRY TO TELL YOU A TENDON IN YOUR LEG IS BADLY DAMAGED--YOU'LL HAVE TO GIVE UP TRAPEZE WORK FOR SOME TIME, I'M AFRAID...
OH NO! NO! I CAN'T DO THAT!
ALL THAT NIGHT AND THE NEXT DAY I CALLED CLIFTON... HE WAS ALWAYS OUT...
OH, PLEASE... WHEN HE COMES IN, HAVE HIM CALL MISS ENGLISH!
WHY DOESN'T HE CALL? HE KNOWS HOW LONELY IT IS IN HERE! WHERE CAN HE BE?
THEN THE FOLLOWING DAY...
HELLO, MISS ENGLISH! MAY I SEE YOU A MOMENT? I'M A FRIEND OF CLIFF'S...
WHY YES, OF COURSE.. WHERE IS HE? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM?

HE'S ALL RIGHT, MISS ENGLISH! IN FACT, A CROWD OF US ARE MOTORING DOWN TO FLORIDA TOMORROW!
BUT HE CAN'T... HE KNOWS I'M TOO ILL TO LEAVE! HOW CAN HE GO WITHOUT ME?
I MAY HAVE MY BAD POINTS BUT I'M NOT A TOTAL HEEL! I HAD TO LET YOU KNOW THAT CLIFF IS... WELL, JUST A FLY-BY-NIGHT GUY! HE NEVER GOT SERIOUS OVER ME... AND HE HASN'T OVER YOU!
GET OUT! YOU'RE LYING! GET OUT!
SORRY, KID... BUT IT'S BETTER THAT YOU KNOW NOW!
AT LAST MY EYES HAD BEEN OPENED! CLIFF HAD ONLY USED ME FOR A NOVELTY... A SILLY CIRCUS PERFORMER HE COULD SHOW HIS FRIENDS! AND THEN ON MY FIRST DAY ON CRUTCHES.....
HELLO, BONNIE...
PETE!
GENERAL HOSPITAL
OH, PETE... I'VE BEEN SUCH A FOOL... HOW CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME?
TAKE IT EASY, HONEY! DON'T WRINKLE THAT BEAUTIFUL FACE OR THE PUBLIC WON'T LIKE US!
NOW THAT YOU'VE COME BACK I DON'T MIND SO MUCH, NOT BEING ABLE TO PERFORM AGAIN! I DON'T MIND ANYTHING NOW... MMM!
LISTEN MY DARLING... THE DOCTOR SAYS IN ANOTHER MONTH THAT CRAZY TENDON IN YOUR LEG WILL BE SOLID AS A ROCK! WE'RE BOTH GONNA KNOCK 'EM COLD AGAIN! IF IT HAD TO TAKE AN INJURED LEG TO MAKE YOU REALIZE THAT YOU BELONG TO ME, THEN I'M GLAD IT HAPPENED! NOW-- C'MERE!
7
YES, A CELEBRITY'S LIFE CAN BE VERY MIXED UP... BUT I KNOW IT'S WORTH IT WHEN I HEAR.....
INTRODUCING THE BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADY WHO FLOATS THROUGH THE AIR....
...AND HER DASHING HUSBAND-- THE KING AND QUEEN OF THE TRAPEZE!
THE END

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DREAM OF LOVE

DAY and night I dreamed of Rex. I thought of his arms around me; I dreamt of his kisses; I heard his voice saying, "Beth, my dearest, I love you." But I knew my dreams would never come true. Rex was engaged to my roommate, Donna.

"Do be a good scout, Beth," Donna pleaded. "Come dancing with us tonight. I'm sure your Bill will like Rex and we'll have fun."

I paled with fright. This was the last thing in the world I wanted to happen. How could I go dancing with Rex and Donna? How could I bear to see his arms around her? I might say or do something rash. I might even become ill.

"No—not tonight, Donna," I answered and turned away. "Bill and I are going to a movie." I looked at my watch. Bill was late. I always planned to be out of the apartment before Rex arrived. But there were times when I couldn't avoid him, and my suffering was so acute it spread throughout my entire body.

When Rex and Donna argued it broke my heart. I couldn't bear to hear Donna speak so cruelly to Rex. Their arguments were always about the same subject—money.

The phone rang and I ran to it, hoping that it was Bill asking me to meet him somewhere. I didn't want to see Rex tonight. "Hello? Oh, Bill, I'm so sorry . . . all right, we'll make it tomorrow night."

"Was that Bill calling off your date?" Donna asked.

"Yes, he has to work tonight."

"Why do you take that from him?" she hammered. "Believe me, I don't take *anything* from men. And I'm not taking much more from Rex!"

"Donna!" I shouted. "You can't mean that!" Hope and sorrow filled my heart when I heard her words. I didn't want Rex to be hurt, yet her statement might mean the fulfillment of my dreams.

"I certainly do mean it. What's the matter with you? How I treat Rex is my own business!" She looked at me sharply.

Beth's blind love burned slowly into her heart . . . and her happiness depended upon the decision another woman would make!

I tried to laugh. "Nothing's wrong with me, Donna—only I couldn't be like you. I — I couldn't treat someone I loved so—so . . ."

She turned away, and I sighed with relief when she said, "You'll learn, Beth. You'll find out how to handle your boy friends. I'll give you a few pointers tonight."

The doorbell rang. It was Rex! Donna opened the door and kissed him coolly on the cheek. "Hi, lover," she greeted him. "I'm ready to go! Where'll it be tonight—the Yellow Bantam or Harvey's?"

Rex came slowly into the room and sat down. He looked tired and unhappy. I wanted to run my fingers over his forehead and sit close to him. I wanted to tell him to rest—that dancing tonight wasn't important. I wanted to feel his arms around me and I wanted his kisses. . .

His voice was underlined with discouragement when he said, "Donna, we'll have to skip the dancing tonight. We'll go next week."

"Next week?" she snapped. "Are you kidding? You promised to take me tonight and *tonight we're going!*"

I started to leave the room. Hearing Donna shout at Rex and be so demanding almost broke my heart. I couldn't stay with them another minute.

"You stay here, Beth," Donna said to me in a clipped tone. "I want you to hear this. I want you to witness how my fiancé, Rex, treats me."

"Donna, please," Rex begged. He stood up. "I'm not treating you badly. We can't go dancing tonight because—because—well, I'm broke. Can't you understand that? Next week I expect a big commission check. The boss promised me faithfully. . ."

"Humph!" she said and tossed her head. "Don't give me that old line. You just don't want to go. You want to sit here and play cribbage or rummy. Well, I'm not going to stay here! I'm young! I want to dance and have fun!"

I watched Rex's face. It was a hopeless mask of despair. I wanted to run to him and hold him close—to tell him it didn't matter if he was broke, that I believed in him and knew he'd be making more money soon. . .

"I want to go as much as you do, Donna," he said quietly, "but I can't—not tonight. Please be reasonable."

"I am being reasonable! I can't wait until you make enough money to take me out or — or to *marry me!*" She pulled the engagement ring from her finger and handed it to Rex.

I had to lean on the door for support. This was too much. Rex would be heartbroken. How could she be so cruel?

Rex took the ring and said seriously, almost with a note of finality in his voice, "Do you really mean it, Donna? Is this the end?"

"Yes! I meant to give it back to you weeks ago. I don't know why I ever accepted it. I don't love you and I never have loved you!" She went to the closet for her coat.

"Where are you going?" Rex asked helplessly. He held the ring in his hand, not knowing what to do with it.

"I'm going to Mary's. She's having a party tonight, and always has tons of men. I'm going to find one who'll take me dancing and one who's got a few bills in his wallet. Be seeing you." The door slammed.

An ominous quiet fell over the room. Rex stood staring into space.

I didn't know what to do or what to say. His heartbreak was greater than mine had ever been. His engagement to Donna had been a reality—while I had only dreams. Dreams can be conquered — eventually. But what about him? It would take much, much longer to recover from the wound Donna had just inflicted upon his heart.

Tears came to my eyes. Seeing him so crestfallen was tearing me to pieces. "Rex," I whispered under my breath. "Rex, darling."

He turned and faced me. He was smiling! I saw him drop the ring into his pocket and walk towards me. My heart almost stopped beating as I saw him come closer and closer. His smile broadened. I closed my eyes. "This is a dream," I told myself. "Soon I shall wake up . . ."

His arms were suddenly around me and his lips were on mine. I kissed him tenderly and clung to him. "Oh, Rex, Rex," I whispered, not caring what the next few moments might bring.

"My sweet darling," he said, and looked into my eyes. "How I've waited for this moment. I've dreamed of it since the first day we met. Now all of it is true."

"You — you've dreamed of me?" I asked unbelievingly.

"Yes, I've loved you from the beginning . . . and you do love me, don't you?" His eyes were full of questions.

"Yes, yes, I love you. Day and night I dream of you. Tell me this is not a dream, Rex, my darling." I shivered in his arms, afraid I would wake up.

"This is not a dream, my own sweet Beth. This is real."

"Donna? What about Donna?" I asked as he held me close.

"I didn't want to hurt her. I was engaged to her before I met you and I was going to see it through—even though she disappointed me. Now the nightmare is all over. Donna herself made the decision."

"Yes—the nightmare is all over and the dream has come true," I murmured and felt his lips on mine again. I clung to him, knowing at last that I was not dreaming. This was real—this was love.

Rex reached into his pocket for the ring and slipped it on my finger. "We'll keep it this way for awhile," he said, "but soon we'll have it made over. I want every trace of Donna to be erased from my life. Yours has to be a true and trusting love ring, because I know you've trusted me and loved me since the first day we saw one another."

As I sank into his arms again, breathing a deep sigh of thankfulness and hope for our future, I wondered why I hadn't known much sooner that he loved me as much as I loved him.

"I was blind, Rex, completely blind — but now my eyes are open and I see . . ."

"What do you see, darling?" he asked, his lips kissing my hair.

"I see you—only you—and I see our future—you and I loving and working together forever!"

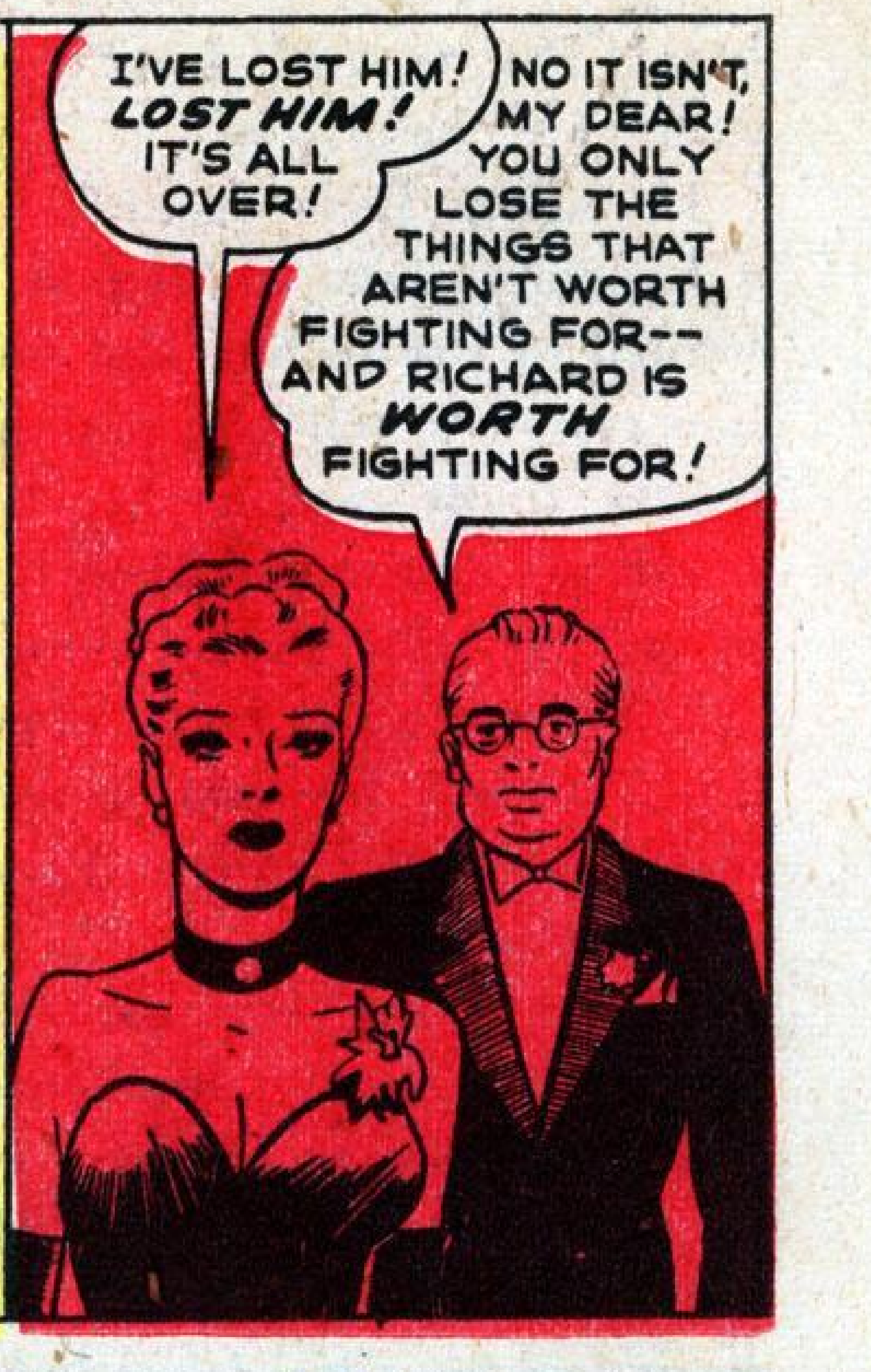
THE END SL-5172

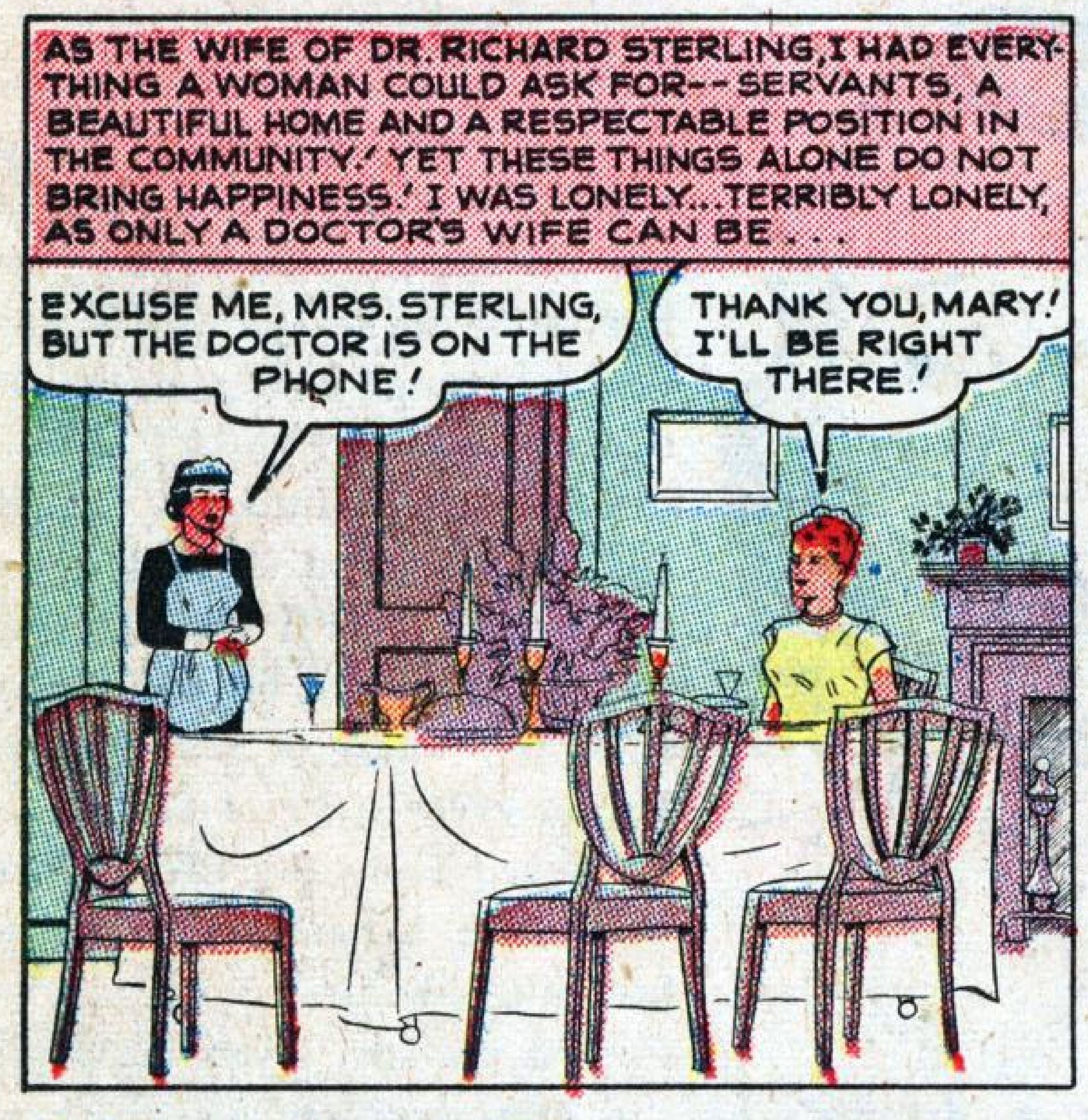
SOME LOVES ARE EMPTY THINGS—MEANINGLESS AND SHALLOW! BUT SOME ARE LIKE THE LOVE WHICH DICK AND I HAD SHARED... A LOVE WE ALMOST LOST... UNTIL I REALIZED THAT IT WAS—

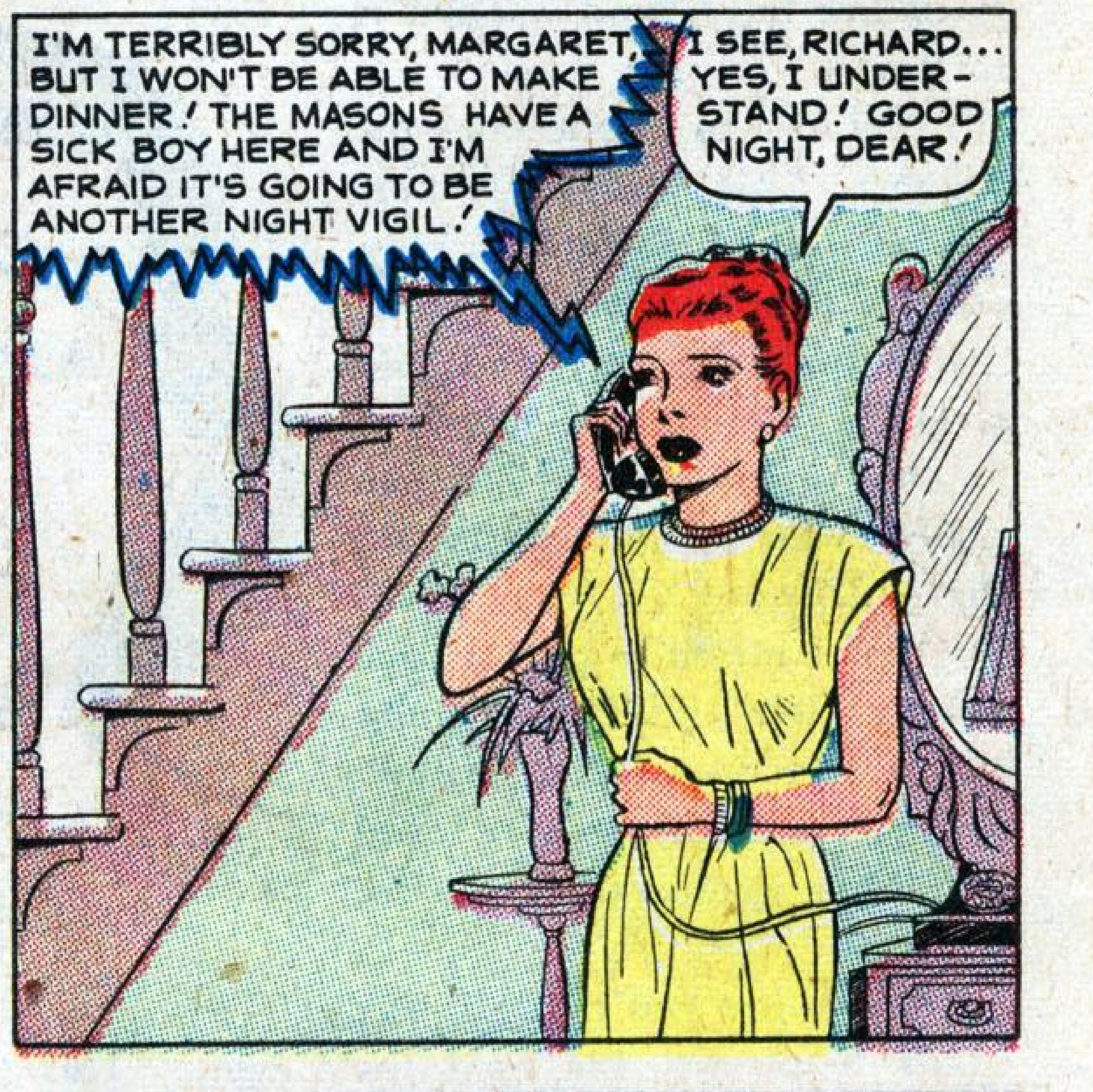
"A LOVE TO FIGHT FOR!"

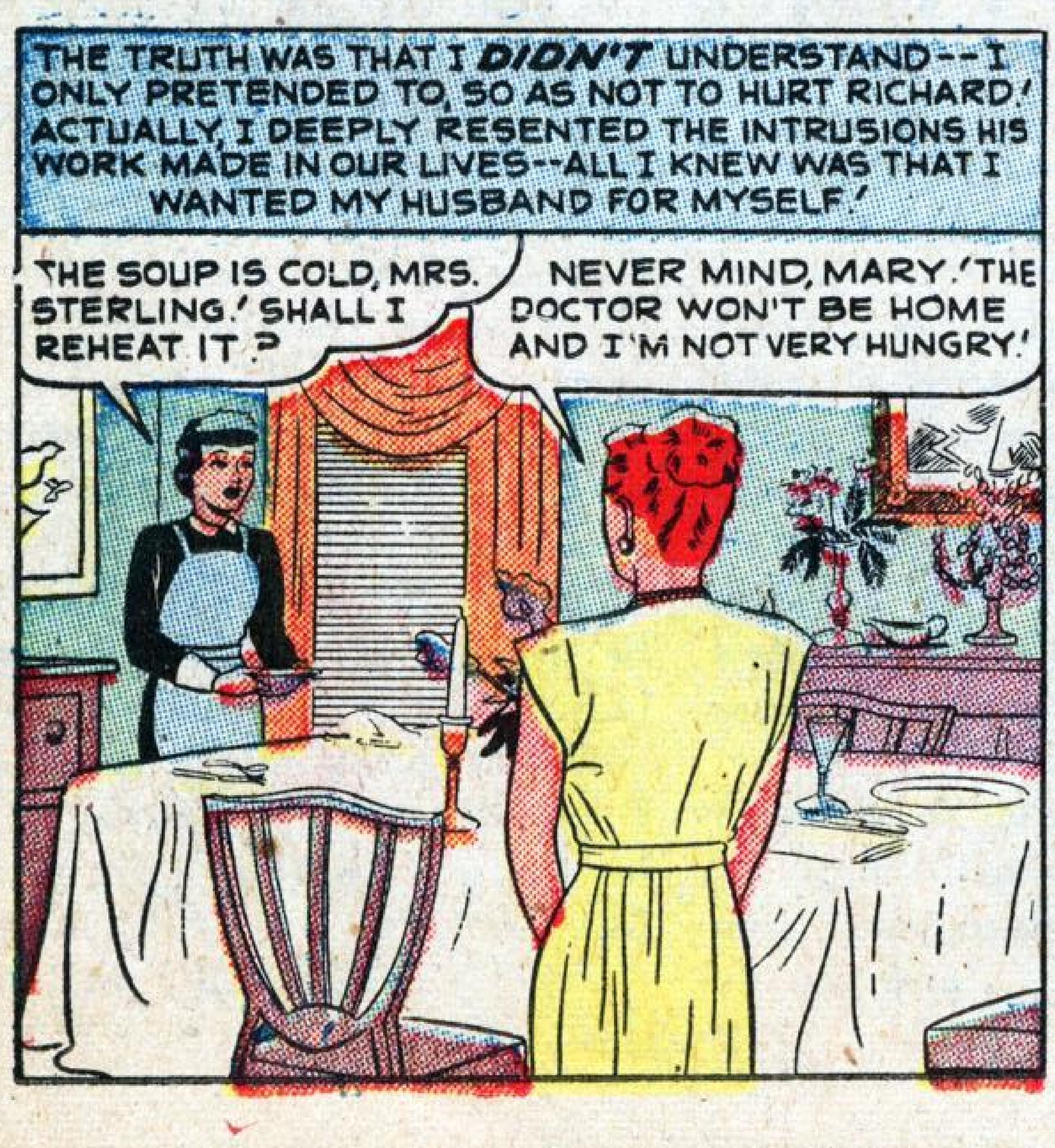
A TRUE LIFE STORY

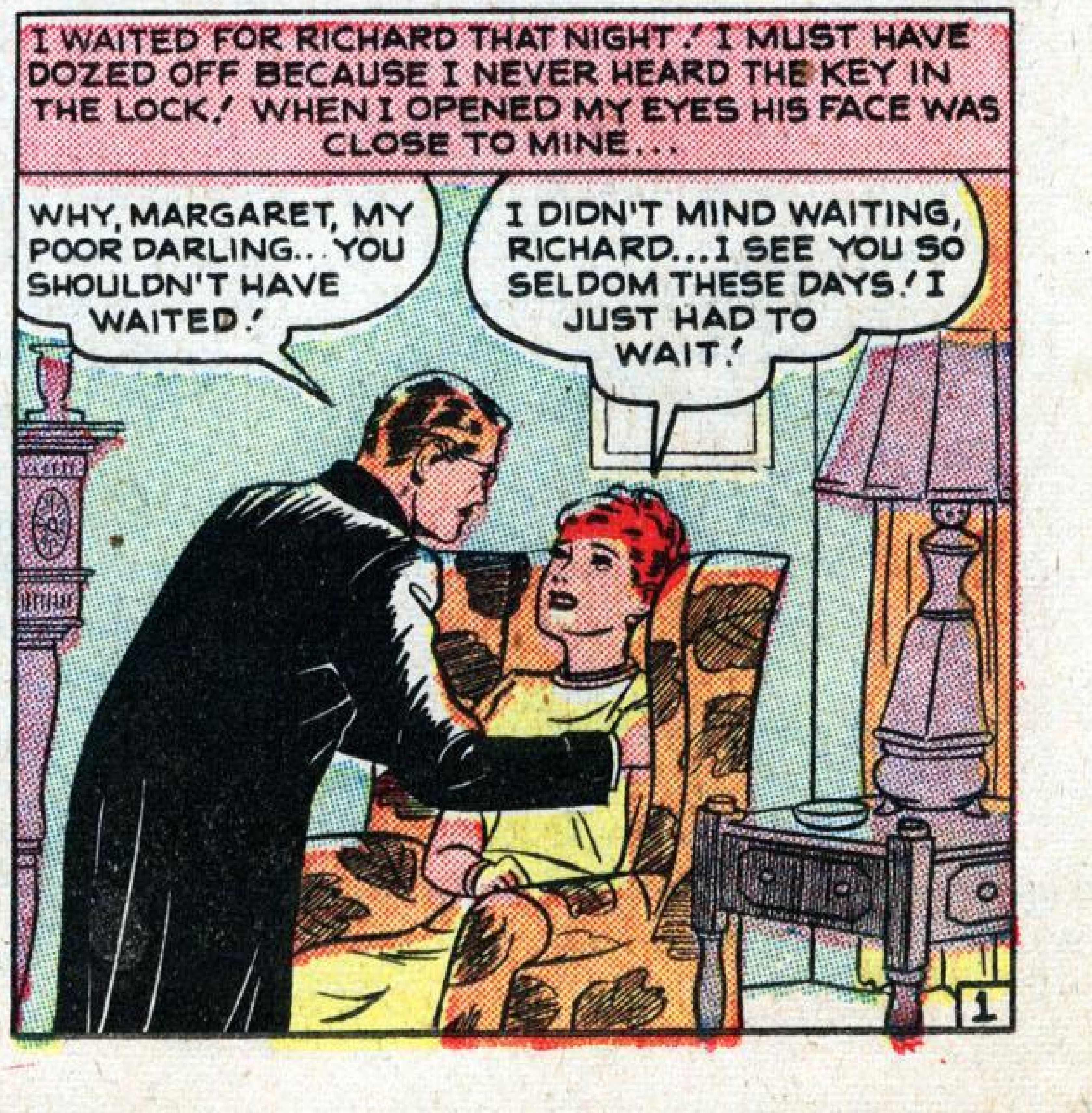
5166


I'VE LOST HIM! *LOST HIM!* IT'S ALL OVER!
NO IT ISN'T, MY DEAR! YOU ONLY LOSE THE THINGS THAT AREN'T WORTH FIGHTING FOR--AND RICHARD IS ***WORTH*** FIGHTING FOR!

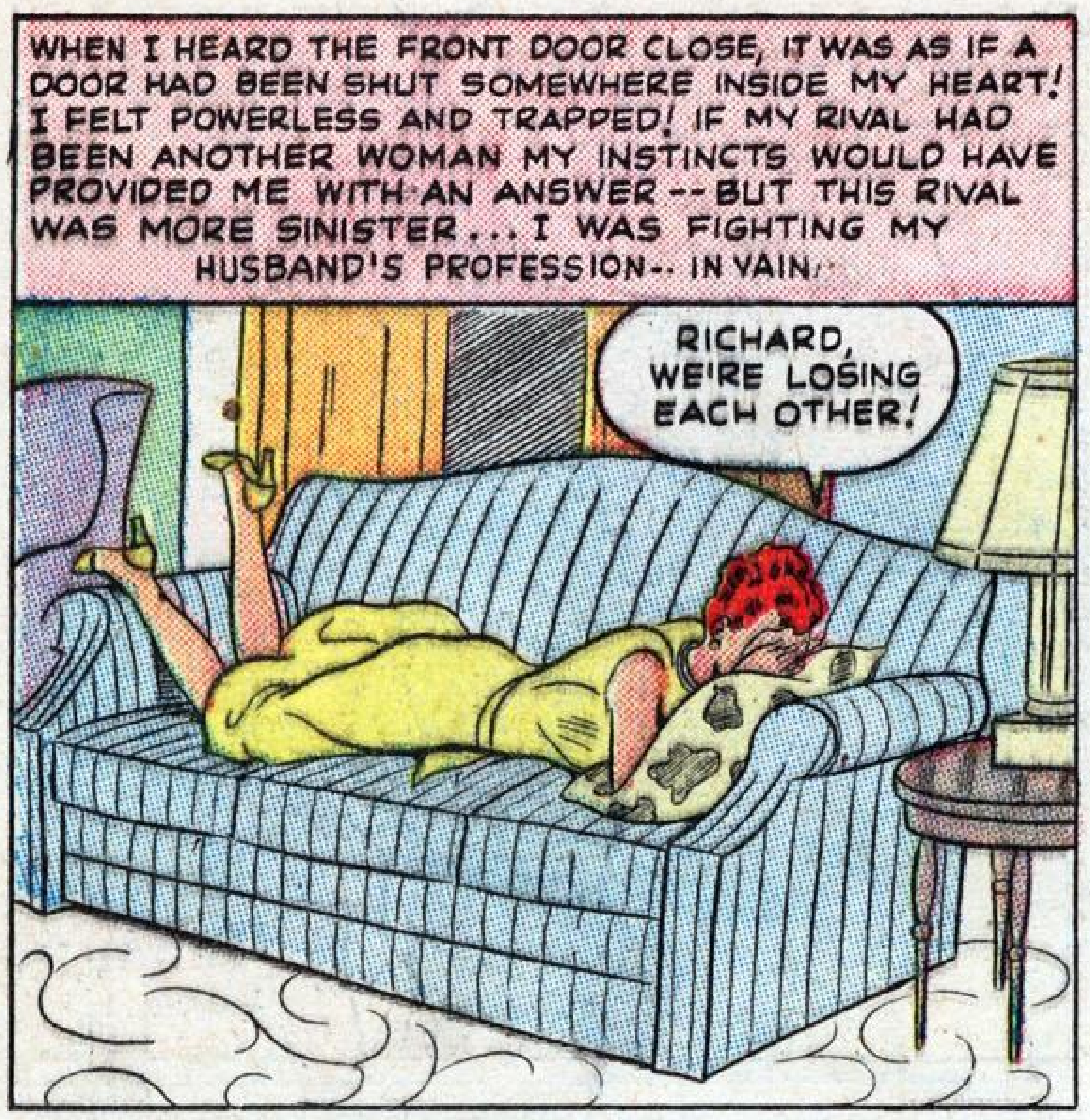

AS THE WIFE OF DR. RICHARD STERLING, I HAD EVERYTHING A WOMAN COULD ASK FOR--SERVANTS, A BEAUTIFUL HOME AND A RESPECTABLE POSITION IN THE COMMUNITY! YET THESE THINGS ALONE DO NOT BRING HAPPINESS! I WAS LONELY... TERRIBLY LONELY, AS ONLY A DOCTOR'S WIFE CAN BE...
EXCUSE ME, MRS. STERLING, BUT THE DOCTOR IS ON THE PHONE!
THANK YOU, MARY! I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!

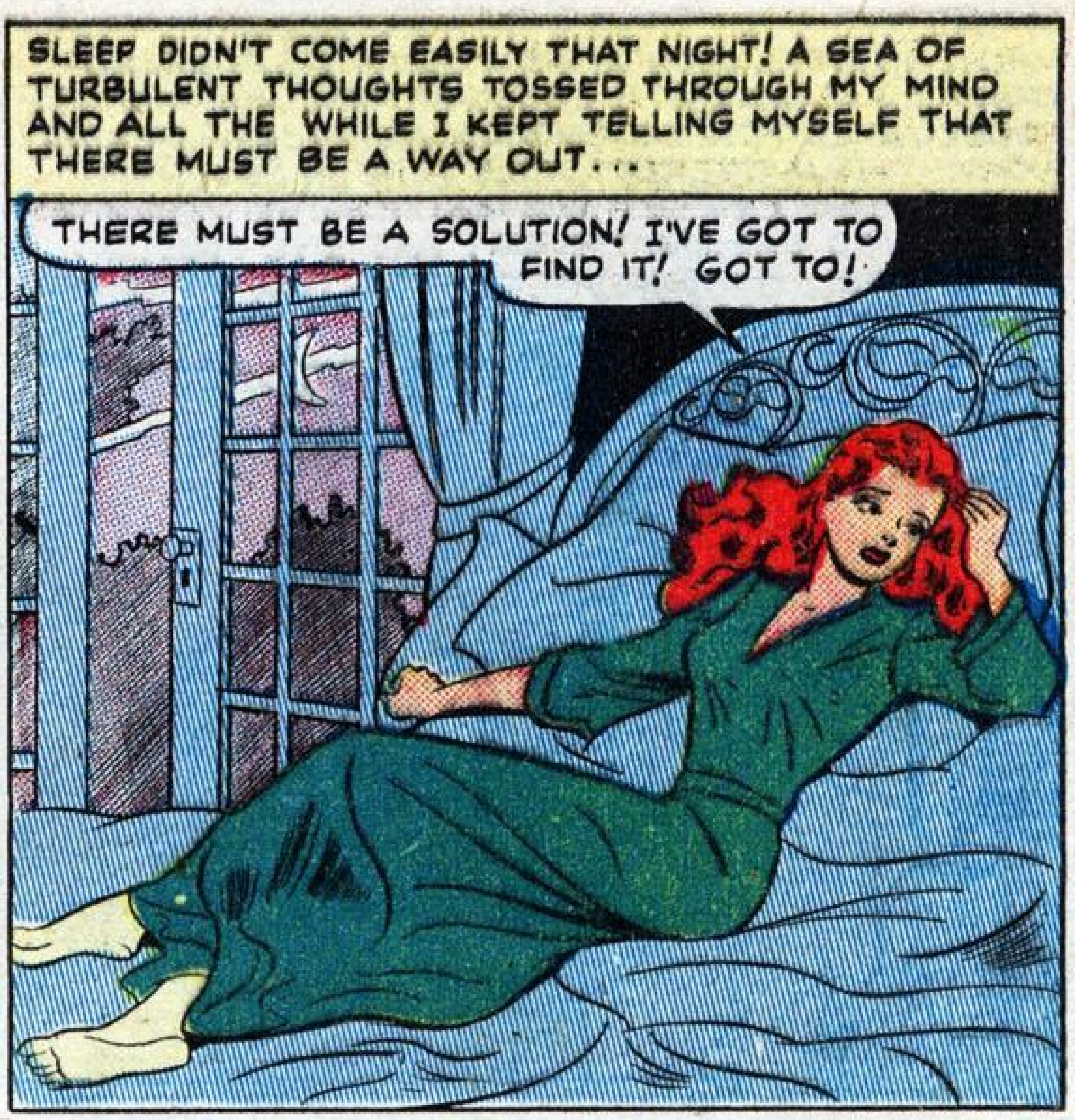

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, MARGARET, BUT I WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE DINNER! THE MASONS HAVE A SICK BOY HERE AND I'M AFRAID IT'S GOING TO BE ANOTHER NIGHT VIGIL!
I SEE, RICHARD... YES, I UNDERSTAND! GOOD NIGHT, DEAR!

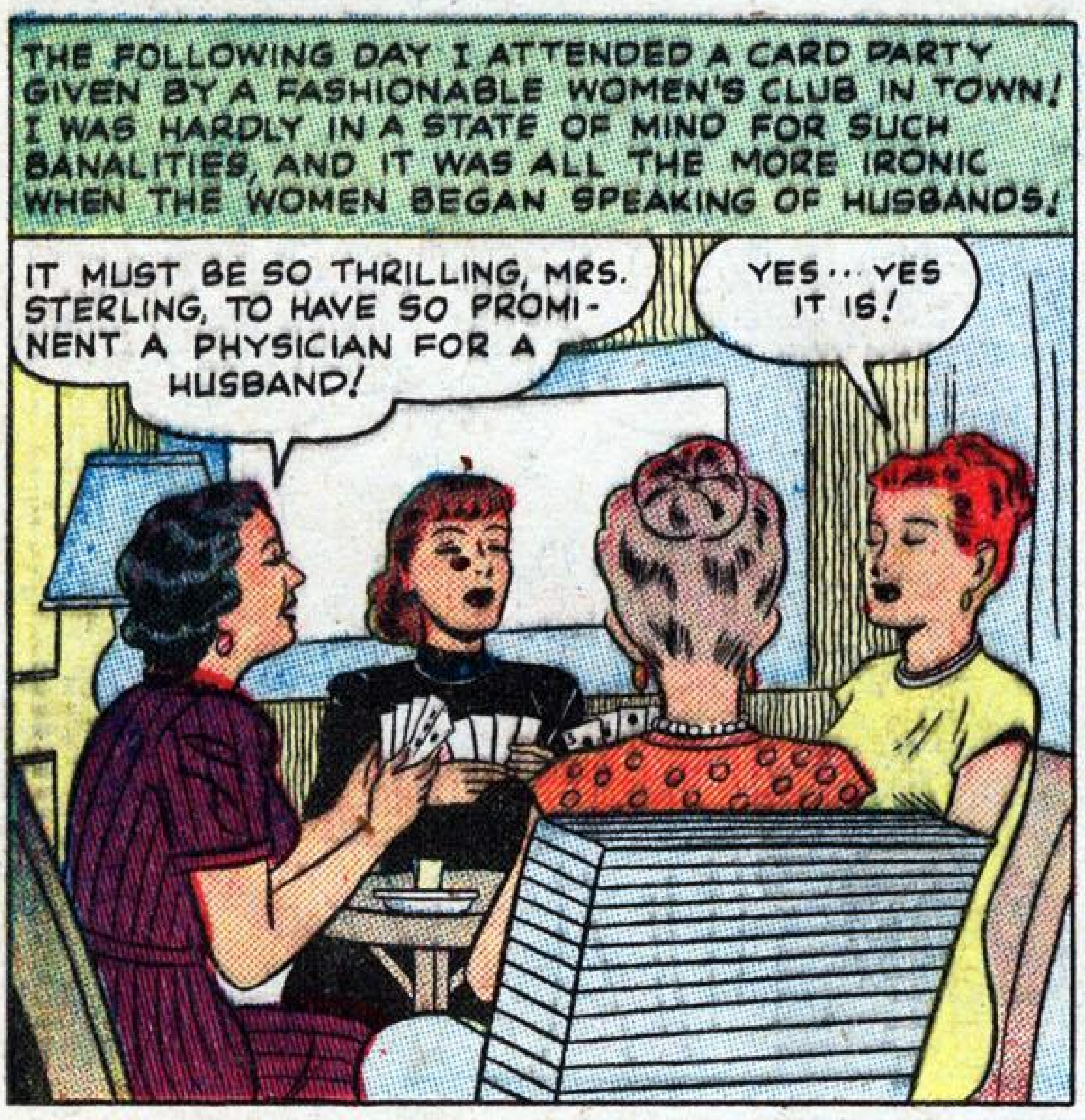

THE TRUTH WAS THAT I ***DIDN'T*** UNDERSTAND--I ONLY PRETENDED TO, SO AS NOT TO HURT RICHARD! ACTUALLY, I DEEPLY RESENTED THE INTRUSIONS HIS WORK MADE IN OUR LIVES--ALL I KNEW WAS THAT I WANTED MY HUSBAND FOR MYSELF!
THE SOUP IS COLD, MRS. STERLING! SHALL I REHEAT IT?
NEVER MIND, MARY! THE DOCTOR WON'T BE HOME AND I'M NOT VERY HUNGRY!

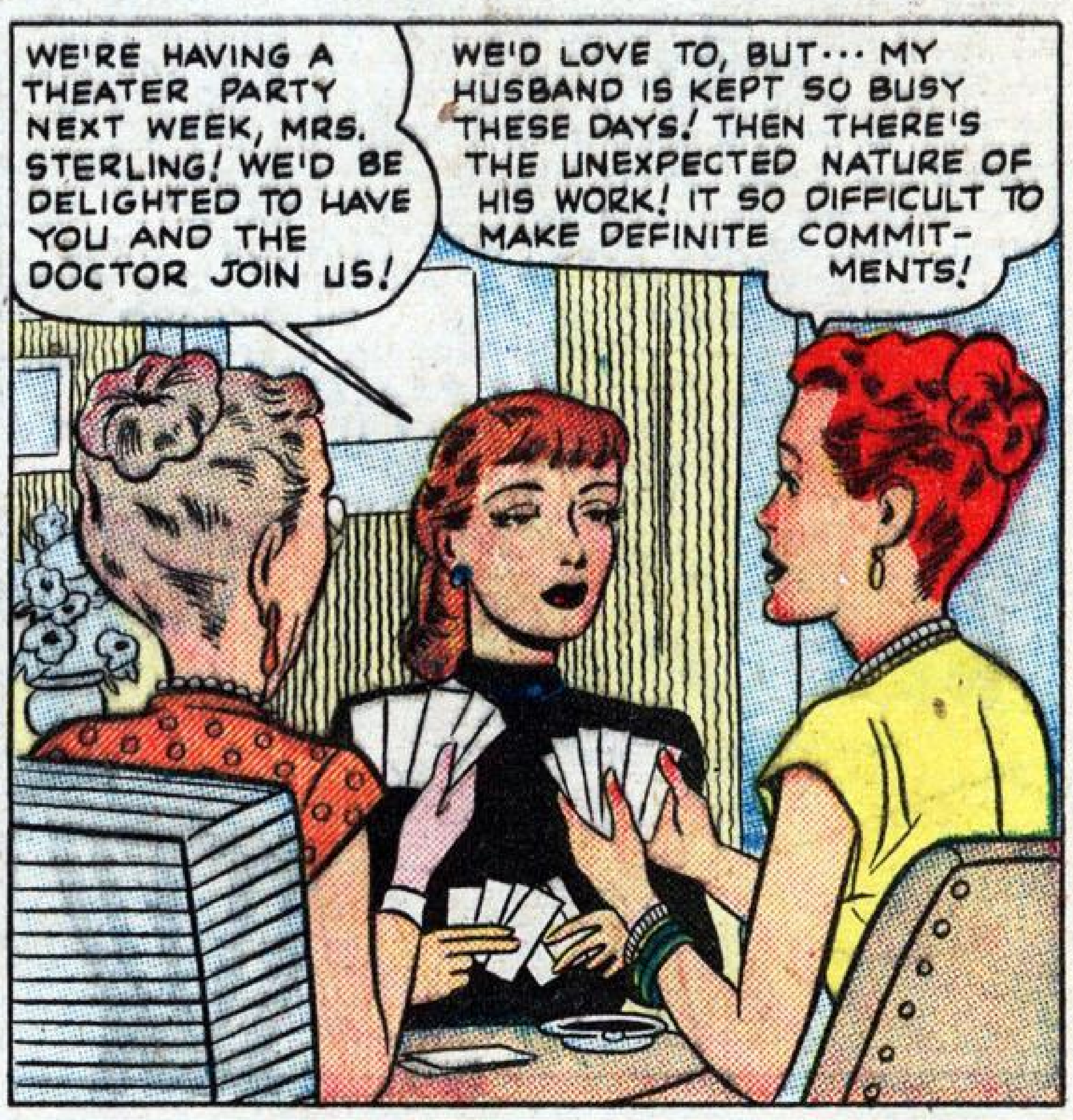

I WAITED FOR RICHARD THAT NIGHT! I MUST HAVE DOZED OFF BECAUSE I NEVER HEARD THE KEY IN THE LOCK! WHEN I OPENED MY EYES HIS FACE WAS CLOSE TO MINE...
WHY, MARGARET, MY POOR DARLING... YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE WAITED!
I DIDN'T MIND WAITING, RICHARD... I SEE YOU SO SELDOM THESE DAYS! I JUST HAD TO WAIT!

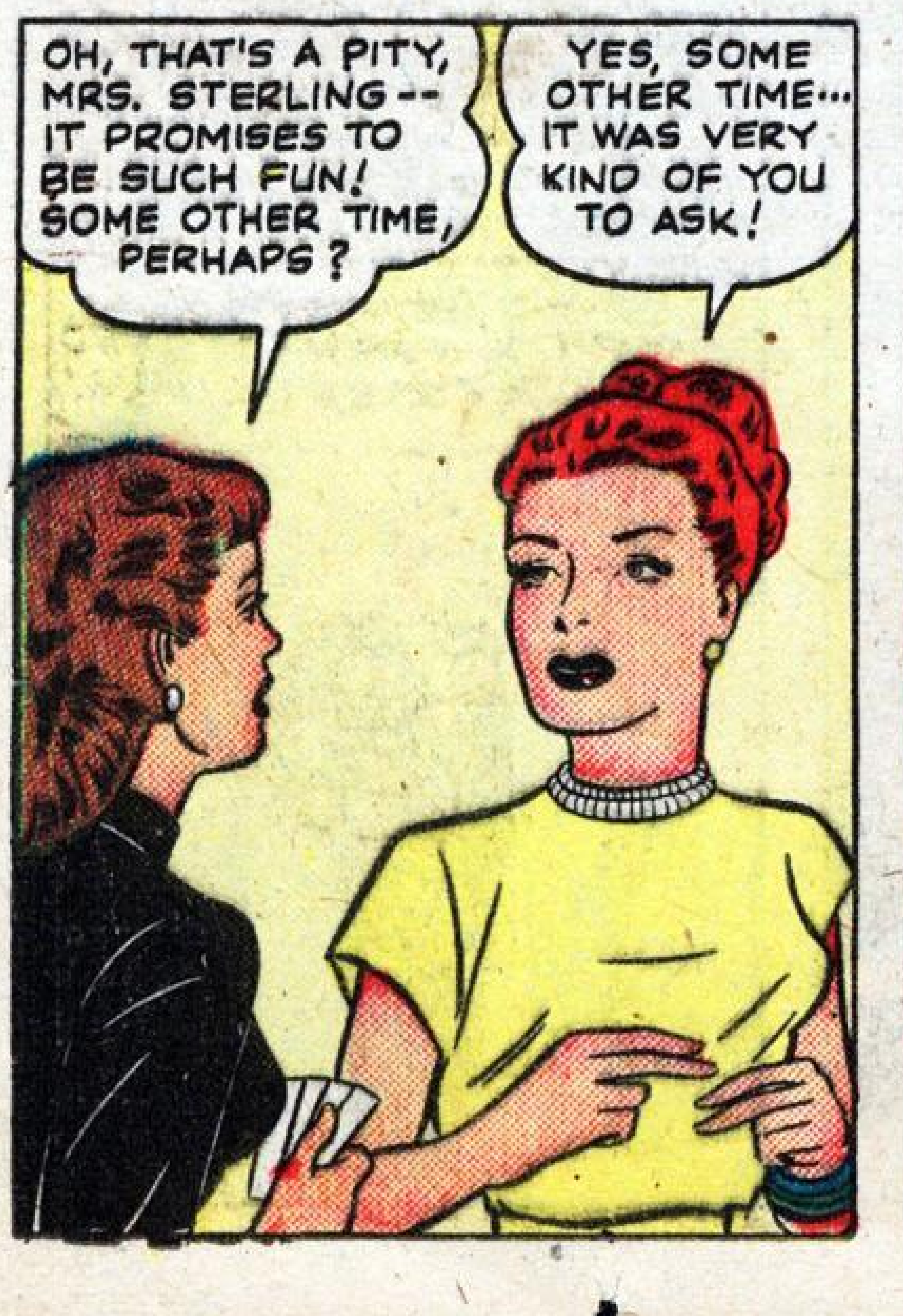
I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO TELL RICHARD OF THE FEAR THAT GNAWED AT MY HEART! I WAS AFRAID FOR OUR MARRIAGE! I COULDN'T TELL HIM THAT THE WORK HE LOVED WAS DRIVING AN EVER-WIDENING WEDGE BETWEEN OUR LIVES...
OH, RICHARD DARLING, IT'S SO WONDERFUL BEING IN YOUR ARMS! I'VE MISSED YOU SO!
AND I'VE MISSED YOU, TOO, DARLING... SO VERY MUCH!
DARLING, I'VE JUST HAD A **WONDERFUL** IDEA! WE'RE GOING TO HAVE DINNER TOGETHER TOMORROW AND I DON'T CARE IF IT MEANS CANCELING ALL MY CALLS! TOMORROW, DARLING, IS GOING TO BE **OURS!**
OH, RICHARD, IT ***IS*** A WONDERFUL IDEA... IT ***IS!***
RICHARD KEPT HIS WORD, AND HIS PRESENCE AT THE TABLE THAT EVENING BROUGHT A WARMTH TO THE ROOM THAT HAD LONG BEEN MISSING! THE POLISHED SILVER GLEAMING IN THE CANDLELIGHT COULDN'T RIVAL THE GLOW I FELT IN MY HEART!
WELL, DARLING, HOW DOES IT FEEL HAVING DINNER WITH YOUR HUSBAND?
IT'S PERFECTLY AWFUL! I COULDN'T THINK OF ANYTHING MORE BORING... OH, RICHARD DARLING, YOU KNOW HOW I ***REALLY*** FEEL! IF ONLY IT COULD GO ON LIKE THIS FOREVER...
HAPPINESS IS AN ELUSIVE SUBSTANCE AND, LIKE ALL INTANGIBLES, IT DEFIES PREDICTION! LIKE A BIRD IN GRACEFUL FLIGHT, IT MAY ALIGHT A MOMENT... AND THEN BE GONE! WHEN I SAW MARY STANDING IN THE DOORWAY, I KNEW HER WORDS EVEN BEFORE SHE SPOKE...
I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT, BUT IT'S A CALL FOR DR. STERLING! THEY SAY IT'S IMPORTANT!
THAT'S ODD! I LEFT DEFINITE WORD... EXCUSE ME, DARLING, I WON'T BE A MOMENT!
WHAT WAS IT, RICHARD?
WELL--ER--NOTHING TERRIBLY IMPORTANT, DEAR! IT SEEMS THE MASON'S LITTLE BOY IS RUNNING A SLIGHT FEVER... IT CAN SAFELY WAIT UNTIL MORNING!
RICHARD TRIED TO HIDE HIS CONCERN! HE MADE A VALIANT EFFORT AT BANTERING CONVERSATION, BUT IT FELL SHORT OF THE MARK! I COULDN'T TAKE THE PRETENSE ANY LONGER...
WHY, ONLY THE OTHER MORNING I HAD A MOST AMUSING EXPERIENCE, MARGARET... WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK, RICHARD!
HERE, RICHARD, I'VE BROUGHT YOU YOUR THINGS-- YOU'D BETTER HURRY!
THAT'S WHAT I LOVE ABOUT YOU, DARLING-- YOU'RE SO UNSELFISH AND UNDERSTANDING! A DOCTOR COULDN'T ASK FOR A BETTER WIFE!

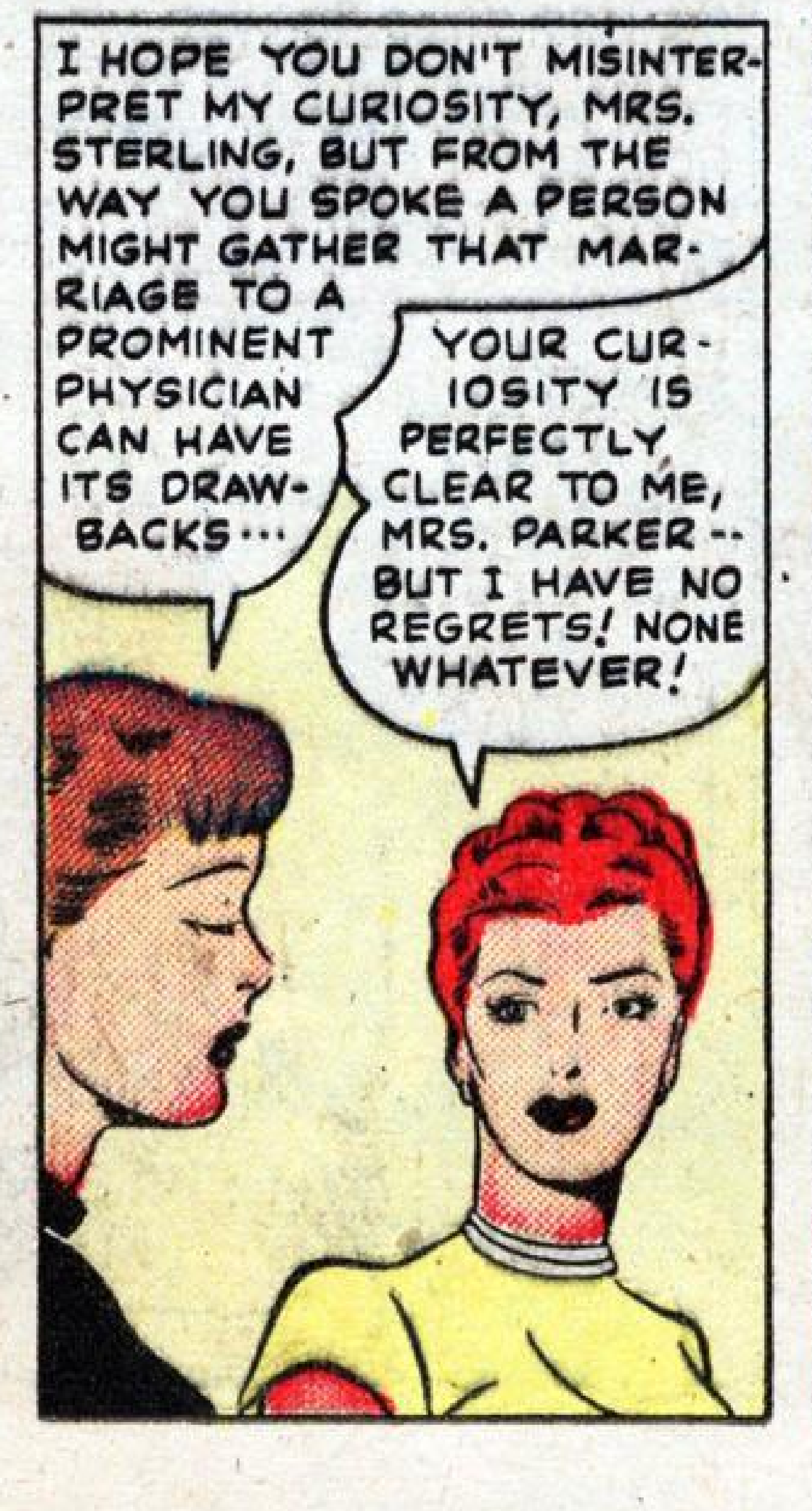

WHEN I HEARD THE FRONT DOOR CLOSE, IT WAS AS IF A DOOR HAD BEEN SHUT SOMEWHERE INSIDE MY HEART! I FELT POWERLESS AND TRAPPED! IF MY RIVAL HAD BEEN ANOTHER WOMAN MY INSTINCTS WOULD HAVE PROVIDED ME WITH AN ANSWER -- BUT THIS RIVAL WAS MORE SINISTER ... I WAS FIGHTING MY HUSBAND'S PROFESSION -- IN VAIN.
RICHARD, WE'RE LOSING EACH OTHER!

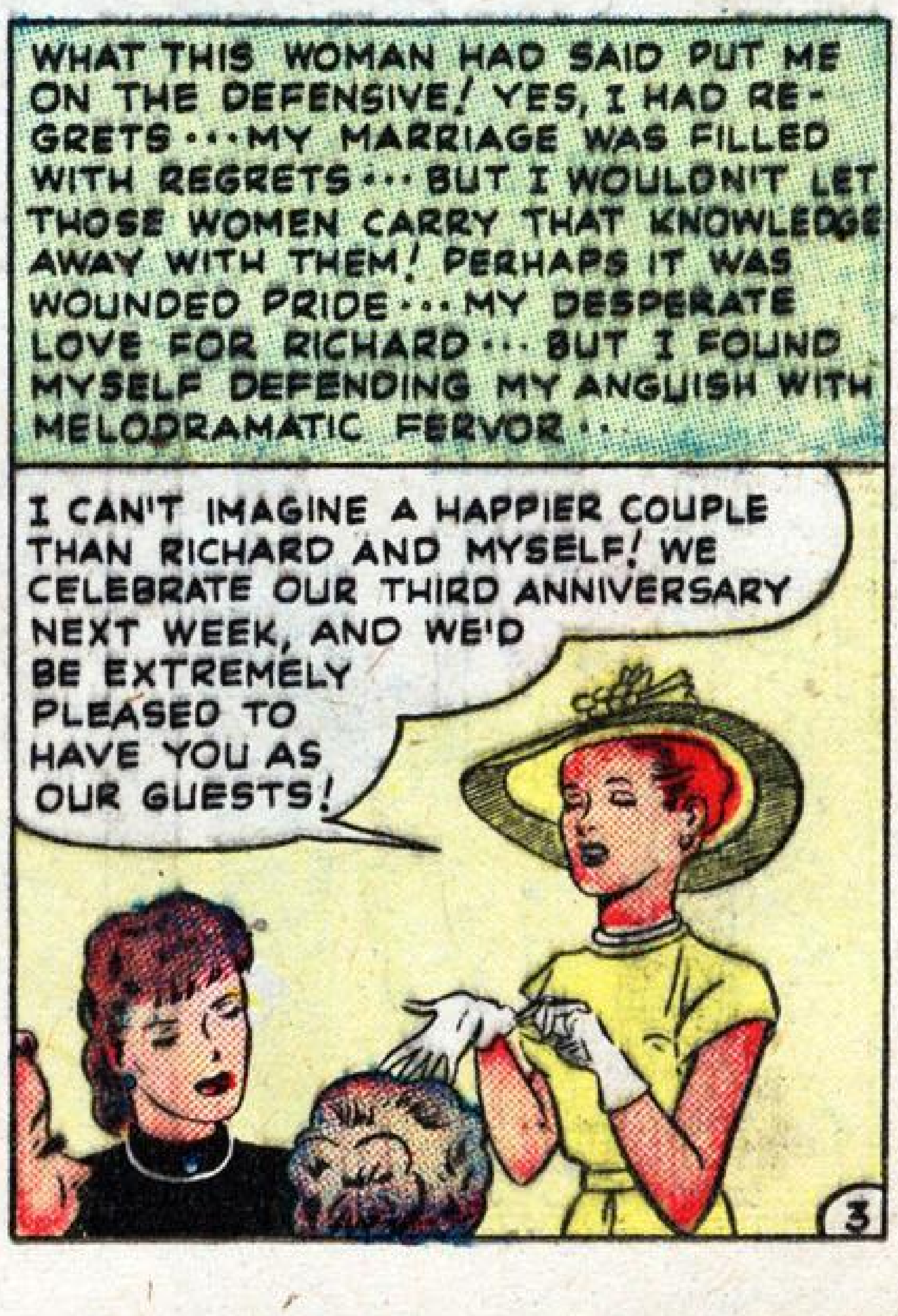

SLEEP DIDN'T COME EASILY THAT NIGHT! A SEA OF TURBULENT THOUGHTS TOSSED THROUGH MY MIND AND ALL THE WHILE I KEPT TELLING MYSELF THAT THERE MUST BE A WAY OUT...
THERE MUST BE A SOLUTION! I'VE GOT TO FIND IT! GOT TO!


THE FOLLOWING DAY I ATTENDED A CARD PARTY GIVEN BY A FASHIONABLE WOMEN'S CLUB IN TOWN! I WAS HARDLY IN A STATE OF MIND FOR SUCH BANALITIES, AND IT WAS ALL THE MORE IRONIC WHEN THE WOMEN BEGAN SPEAKING OF HUSBANDS!
IT MUST BE SO THRILLING, MRS. STERLING, TO HAVE SO PROMINENT A PHYSICIAN FOR A HUSBAND!
YES ... YES IT IS!


WE'RE HAVING A THEATER PARTY NEXT WEEK, MRS. STERLING! WE'D BE DELIGHTED TO HAVE YOU AND THE DOCTOR JOIN US!
WE'D LOVE TO, BUT ... MY HUSBAND IS KEPT SO BUSY THESE DAYS! THEN THERE'S THE UNEXPECTED NATURE OF HIS WORK! IT SO DIFFICULT TO MAKE DEFINITE COMMITMENTS!

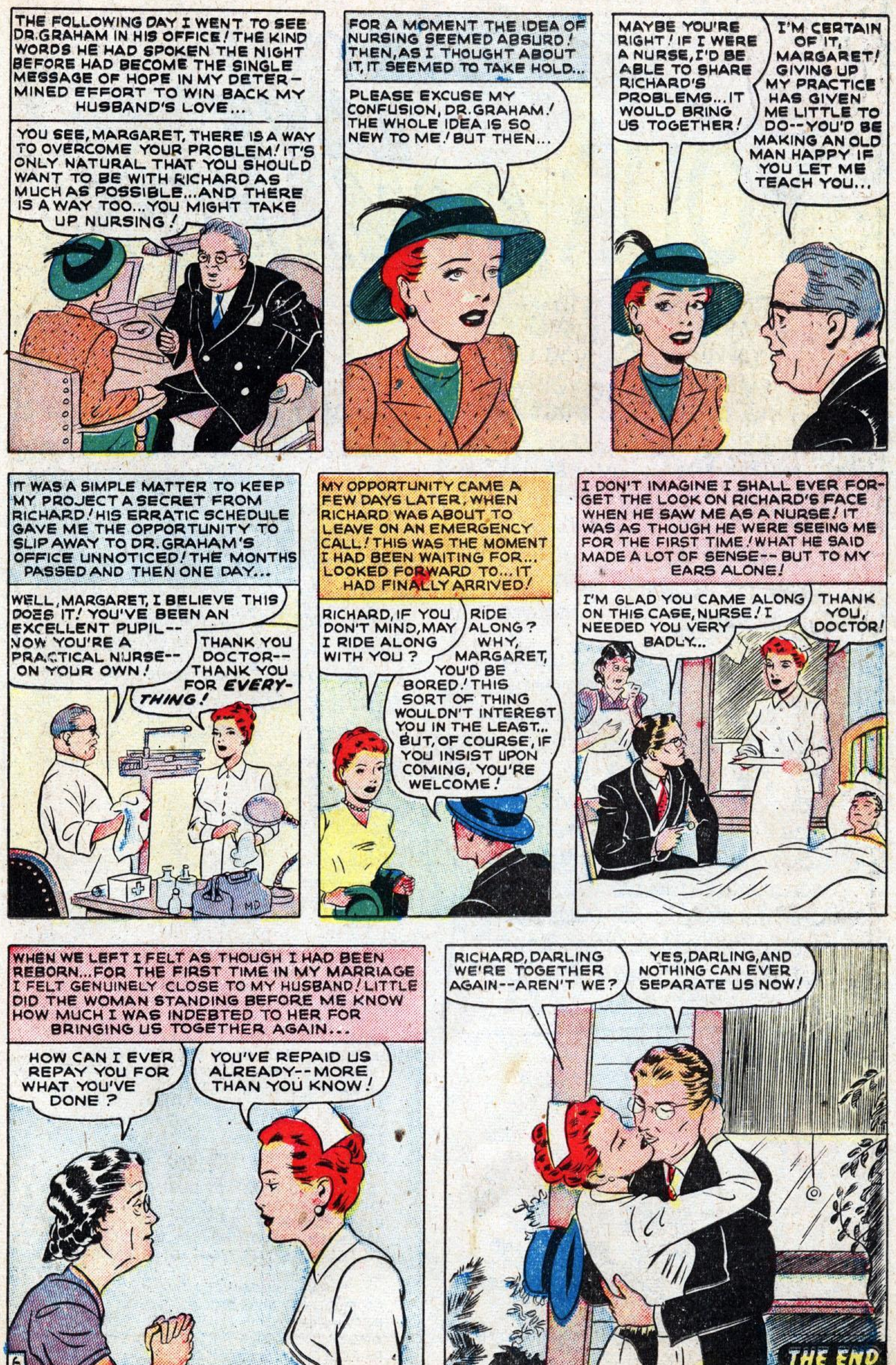

OH, THAT'S A PITY, MRS. STERLING -- IT PROMISES TO BE SUCH FUN! SOME OTHER TIME, PERHAPS?
YES, SOME OTHER TIME... IT WAS VERY KIND OF YOU TO ASK!

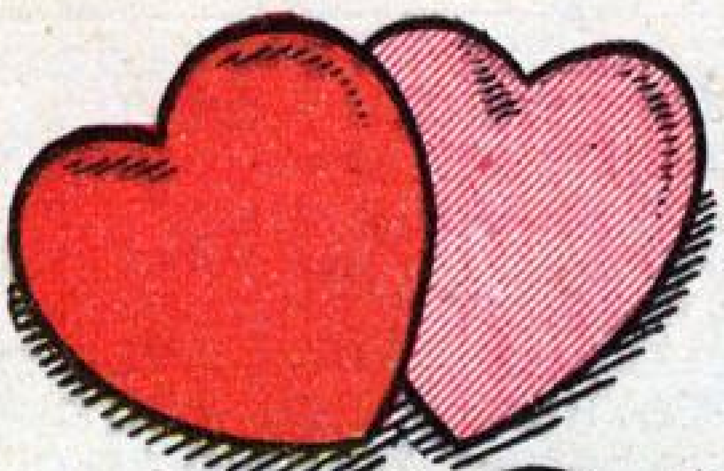

I HOPE YOU DON'T MISINTERPRET MY CURIOSITY, MRS. STERLING, BUT FROM THE WAY YOU SPOKE A PERSON MIGHT GATHER THAT MARRIAGE TO A PROMINENT PHYSICIAN CAN HAVE ITS DRAWBACKS ...
YOUR CURIOSITY IS PERFECTLY CLEAR TO ME, MRS. PARKER -- BUT I HAVE NO REGRETS! NONE WHATEVER!


WHAT THIS WOMAN HAD SAID PUT ME ON THE DEFENSIVE! YES, I HAD REGRETS ... MY MARRIAGE WAS FILLED WITH REGRETS ... BUT I WOULDN'T LET THOSE WOMEN CARRY THAT KNOWLEDGE AWAY WITH THEM! PERHAPS IT WAS WOUNDED PRIDE ... MY DESPERATE LOVE FOR RICHARD ... BUT I FOUND MYSELF DEFENDING MY ANGUISH WITH MELODRAMATIC FERVOR ...
I CAN'T IMAGINE A HAPPIER COUPLE THAN RICHARD AND MYSELF! WE CELEBRATE OUR THIRD ANNIVERSARY NEXT WEEK, AND WE'D BE EXTREMELY PLEASED TO HAVE YOU AS OUR GUESTS!

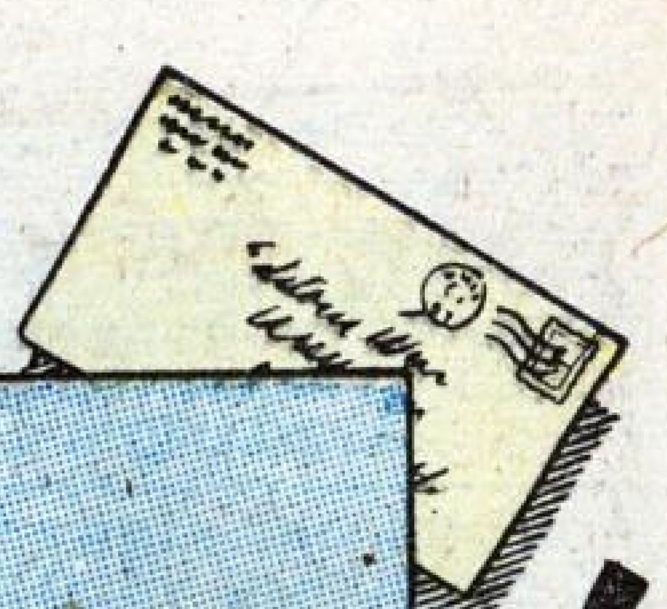
WHEN I RETURNED HOME I WENT DIRECTLY TO THE STUDY! RICHARD WAS BUSY AT HIS DESK AS USUAL --HIS MIND PREOCCUPIED WITH THE ENGROSSING DETAILS OF HIS WORK! THIS MATTERED LITTLE TO ME AT THE MOMENT... MY ONLY CONCERN WAS THE MATTER I HAD TO DISCUSS WITH HIM!
RICHARD, THERE'S SOMETHING I MUST DISCUSS WITH YOU-- IT'S QUITE IMPORTANT!
OF COURSE, MARGARET! WHAT IS IT ?
IT'S ABOUT OUR ANNIVERSARY--IT'S NEXT WEEK YOU KNOW! I WANT TO MAKE IT SOMETHING SPECIAL-- INVITE SOME PEOPLE! I WANT IT TO BE SUCCESSFUL, RICHARD-- VERY SUCCESSFUL!
I'M SURE IT WILL BE! I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO HELP!
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY FOR YOU TO HELP, RICHARD--AND THAT'S BY BEING THERE! PROMISE ME THAT YOU'LL BE THERE!
I'LL DO THE BEST I CAN, DEAR! AFTER ALL, YOU REALIZE MY OBLIGATIONS...
OBLIGATIONS! OBLIGATIONS! THAT'S ALL I'VE HEARD FOR THREE YEARS! THERE ARE OTHER OBLIGATIONS TOO, RICHARD, BESIDE YOUR WORK! DID YOU EVER THINK OF THAT? DID YOU EVER THINK OF YOUR OBLIGATIONS TO ***ME***?
I SAID IT--BUT NOT THE WAY I INTENDED TO! IT ALL HAPPENED SO DIFFERENTLY FROM THE WAY I HAD PLANNED IT! MY LONLINESS HAD GIVEN WAY TO BITTERNESS AND RAGE, AND MY WORDS HAD CUT RICHARD AS DEEPLY AS A LASH FROM A RAWHIDE WHIP!
I'M SORRY, MARGARET! I'VE ALWAYS TRIED TO BE A GOOD HUSBAND TO YOU!
THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED WERE THE MOST PAINFUL ONES OF MY LIFE BUT, IN SPITE OF RICHARD'S DISTANT FORMALITY, I HAD GONE AHEAD WITH THE ANNIVERSARY PLANS...
EVERYTHING SEEMS ALL RIGHT IN HERE, MARY! YOU'D BETTER GO OUT FRONT... THE GUESTS SHOULD BE ARRIVING ANY MOMENT NOW!
YES, MRS. STERLING!
WHEN I SAW RICHARD STANDING AT THE DOORWAY, A FEW MINUTES LATER, I FELT THE NEED OF SAYING SOMETHING TO PLACATE THE STRAINED FEELINGS THAT SETTLED OVER US! BUT THE BREACH IN OUR LIVES SEEMED TO HAVE DEEPENED AND WIDENED INTO AN INSURMOUNTABLE GULF..
RICHARD, THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO...
I THINK THE GUESTS ARE ARRIVING, MARGARET...WE'D BETTER GO OUT TO THEM!

BUT FOR ALL APPEARANCES MY GUESTS COULD NEVER SURMISE MY TRUE STATE OF MIND--A WOMAN CAN SMILE AND LAUGH, ALTHOUGH HER HEART IS TORN IN AGONY! AND I WAS SURPRISED AT MY OWN ABILITY TO SUSTAIN A BANTERING CONVERSATION WITH OLD DR. GRAHAM, WHEN MARY INTERRUPTED...
EXCUSE ME, MRS STERLING, BUT THERE'S SOMEONE OUT FRONT... I THOUGHT I HAD BETTER CALL YOU FIRST!
THANK YOU MARY, I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!
HE WAS A LABORER OF SOME SORT AND KEPT BABBLING AN INCOHERENT STORY ABOUT A CHILD--HE INSISTED ON SEEING THE DOCTOR! MY SELFISHNESS BLINDED ME ONCE AGAIN... I SINGLED HIM OUT AS THE CAUSE OF MY HEARTACHE AND UNHAPPINESS; THE INTERLOPER WHO HAD WRECKED MY MARRIAGE...
CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT MY HUSBAND IS NOT AVAILABLE? THIS HAPPENS TO BE OUR ANNIVERSARY! WHY CAN'T YOU GET ANOTHER DOCTOR?
NO! NOT ANOTHER DOCTOR! YOUR HUSBAND KNOWS THE CASE--HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HELP... ***PLEASE!***
PLEASE, DOCTOR, YOU'VE ***GOT*** TO COME! IT'S MY LITTLE BOY... HIS LEGS!
I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU JUST AS SOON AS I GET MY BAG!
I'VE LOST HIM! ***LOST HIM!*** IT'S ALL OVER!
NO IT ISN'T, MY DEAR! YOU ONLY LOSE THE THINGS THAT AREN'T WORTH FIGHTING FOR-- AND RICHARD IS ***WORTH*** FIGHTING FOR!
MAYBE I'M A MEDDLING OLD FOOL, MARGARET, BUT I THINK I KNOW WHAT'S TROUBLING YOU! BEING MARRIED TO A DOCTOR IS NO CINCH FOR ANY WOMAN--BUT IT HAS ITS COMPENSATIONS! I WON'T SAY MORE NOW--BUT I'D LIKE YOU TO PAY ME A VISIT--I THINK I CAN HELP! WILL YOU COME?
ALL RIGHT, DOCTOR, I WILL! BUT I HARDLY THINK IT WILL BE OF MUCH HELP... NOW!
WHEN THE GUESTS HAD GONE, I WAS LEFT ALONE WITH MY REMORSE! I FELT AN UNFATHOMABLE SHAME IN MY BEHAVIOR TOWARD THE SICK BOY'S FATHER... AND THE LOOK THAT RICHARD HAD GIVEN ME BEFORE HE LEFT SEEMED TO HAVE LEFT A SEARING SCAR ACROSS MY CHEEK! I WAS WAITING FOR HIM WHEN HE RETURNED...
OH, RICHARD, WILL HE BE ALL RIGHT?
I HOPE SO! YOU SEE, IN MATTERS OF THIS SORT A MINUTE CAN MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIVING AND DYING!
I WATCHED HIM GO UP THE STAIRS AND ALL THE WHILE I FELT LIKE RUNNING AFTER HIM AND IMPLORING HIS FORGIVENESS... BUT I KNEW IT COULDN'T BE DONE THAT EASILY! I HAD TO EARN BACK HIS LOVE, AND I I WAS NOW DETERMINED TO DO SO...
5


THE FOLLOWING DAY I WENT TO SEE DR. GRAHAM IN HIS OFFICE! THE KIND WORDS HE HAD SPOKEN THE NIGHT BEFORE HAD BECOME THE SINGLE MESSAGE OF HOPE IN MY DETERMINED EFFORT TO WIN BACK MY HUSBAND'S LOVE...
YOU SEE, MARGARET, THERE IS A WAY TO OVERCOME YOUR PROBLEM! IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT YOU SHOULD WANT TO BE WITH RICHARD AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE...AND THERE IS A WAY TOO...YOU MIGHT TAKE UP NURSING!
FOR A MOMENT THE IDEA OF NURSING SEEMED ABSURD! THEN, AS I THOUGHT ABOUT IT, IT SEEMED TO TAKE HOLD...
PLEASE EXCUSE MY CONFUSION, DR. GRAHAM! THE WHOLE IDEA IS SO NEW TO ME! BUT THEN...
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT! IF I WERE A NURSE, I'D BE ABLE TO SHARE RICHARD'S PROBLEMS...IT WOULD BRING US TOGETHER!
I'M CERTAIN OF IT, MARGARET! GIVING UP MY PRACTICE HAS GIVEN ME LITTLE TO DO--YOU'D BE MAKING AN OLD MAN HAPPY IF YOU LET ME TEACH YOU...
IT WAS A SIMPLE MATTER TO KEEP MY PROJECT A SECRET FROM RICHARD! HIS ERRATIC SCHEDULE GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO SLIP AWAY TO DR. GRAHAM'S OFFICE UNNOTICED! THE MONTHS PASSED AND THEN ONE DAY...
WELL, MARGARET, I BELIEVE THIS DOES IT! YOU'VE BEEN AN EXCELLENT PUPIL--NOW YOU'RE A PRACTICAL NURSE--ON YOUR OWN!
THANK YOU DOCTOR--THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING!
MD
MY OPPORTUNITY CAME A FEW DAYS LATER, WHEN RICHARD WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE ON AN EMERGENCY CALL! THIS WAS THE MOMENT I HAD BEEN WAITING FOR... LOOKED FORWARD TO...IT HAD FINALLY ARRIVED!
RICHARD, IF YOU DON'T MIND, MAY I RIDE ALONG WITH YOU?
RIDE ALONG? WHY, MARGARET, YOU'D BE BORED! THIS SORT OF THING WOULDN'T INTEREST YOU IN THE LEAST... BUT, OF COURSE, IF YOU INSIST UPON COMING, YOU'RE WELCOME!
I DON'T IMAGINE I SHALL EVER FORGET THE LOOK ON RICHARD'S FACE WHEN HE SAW ME AS A NURSE! IT WAS AS THOUGH HE WERE SEEING ME FOR THE FIRST TIME! WHAT HE SAID MADE A LOT OF SENSE-- BUT TO MY EARS ALONE!
I'M GLAD YOU CAME ALONG ON THIS CASE, NURSE! I NEEDED YOU VERY BADLY...
THANK YOU, DOCTOR!
WHEN WE LEFT I FELT AS THOUGH I HAD BEEN REBORN...FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY MARRIAGE I FELT GENUINELY CLOSE TO MY HUSBAND! LITTLE DID THE WOMAN STANDING BEFORE ME KNOW HOW MUCH I WAS INDEBTED TO HER FOR BRINGING US TOGETHER AGAIN...
HOW CAN I EVER REPAY YOU FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE?
YOU'VE REPAID US ALREADY--MORE THAN YOU KNOW!
RICHARD, DARLING WE'RE TOGETHER AGAIN--AREN'T WE?
YES, DARLING, AND NOTHING CAN EVER SEPARATE US NOW!
THE END



LET'S TALK OVER YOUR LOVE ROMANCES!



CUPID'S ARROWS SOMETIMES CREATE DIFFICULT, CONFUSING PROBLEMS... PERHAPS YOU CAN FIND THE ANSWERS TO YOUR OWN PERSONAL LOVE PROBLEMS ON THESE PAGES--TAKEN FROM SOME OF THE MANY EARNEST LETTERS WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM OUR READERS!

Gary,
Indiana

Dear Editor,

I am a man of twenty-two, but I have never gone out with girls. I have never cared about them. But now I am very interested in a girl and I don't know what to do about it. She lives in my block and walks by my house occasionally. I want to know how I can get to meet her, and also when I do, how can I get her to like me?

L.L.E.

DEAR L.L.E.

YOUR PROBLEM IS EXTREMELY SIMPLE BECAUSE THE GIRL TO WHOM YOU ARE ATTRACTED LIVES ON YOUR BLOCK. A LITTLE RESEARCH ON YOUR PART SHOULD REVEAL A MUTUAL FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR WHO WILL BE ABLE TO INTRODUCE HER TO YOU.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT TRYING TO IMPRESS HER ON YOUR FIRST DATE. JUST BE FRIENDLY AND NATURAL AND SHOW HER A GOOD TIME BY PLANNING THE EVENING IN ADVANCE. REMEMBER THAT CONSIDERATION FORMS THE FOUNDATION OF GOOD MANNERS--AND DON'T BE AFRAID TO SHOW HER THAT YOU LIKE HER!

Seattle,
Wash.

Dear Problems Editor,

I have been going with a boy for almost a year and I am very crazy about him. But he is very fickle, and every once in a while he takes out another girl and ignores me completely. He always comes back to me eventually, but my girl friend says I have no pride and should forget him altogether. I feel that I'd prefer to go out with him on his own terms rather than not go out with him at all. Is this wrong?

L.G.S.

DEAR L.G.S.

YOUR PROBLEM CANNOT BE DEFINED IN TERMS OF "RIGHT" OR "WRONG". IT DEPENDS, AS YOU SAY, UPON HOW YOU FEEL---FOR YOU ARE THE ONE WHO SUFFERS WHEN HE IS DATING OTHER GIRLS. WE ASSUME THAT YOU ARE NOT ENGAGED, OR GOING STEADY, SO HE HAS A RIGHT TO DATE OTHER GIRLS. IF YOU WERE ENGAGED AND IF HE WEREN'T TRUE TO YOU, THEN---AND ONLY THEN---WOULD YOUR PRIDE BECOME AN ISSUE.

YOU HAVE OBVIOUSLY EVALUATED THE SITUATION AND CONCLUDED THAT YOU WANT TO SEE HIM, REGARDLESS OF HIS ATTENTIONS TO OTHER GIRLS. IN DOING THIS, YOU HAVE SOLVED YOUR OWN PROBLEM.

WE SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT YOU DATE OTHER MEN OCCASIONALLY. PERHAPS YOU WILL FIND SOMEONE YOU ARE MORE ATTRACTED TO THAN THIS PRESENT LOVE-INTEREST!

N.Y.C.

Dear Editors,

I'm 24 and madly in love with a girl in my office. She's 21 and very pretty and popular. I'm well established in business, and tired of living with my parents. I think it's time for me to start having my own family. I want this girl to marry me and have asked her time and again, but she always says that she is too young and having too much fun. I love this girl and I think if it came to a showdown, she loves me and will marry me. What shall I do?

L.Y.F.

DEAR L.Y.F.

AT THE AGE OF TWENTY-FOUR YOU MAY BE READY FOR MARRIAGE--WE CANNOT PASS JUDGMENT ON THAT--BUT A LITTLE LATER YOU WILL BE NO LESS READY. WAITING FOR SOMETHING YOU REALLY WANT WON'T SPOIL YOUR HAPPINESS WHEN YOUR DREAM DOES COME TRUE; INDEED, IT MAY BE GOOD FOR YOU. IF YOU TRULY LOVE THIS GIRL, YOU CAN WAIT UNTIL SHE, TOO, IS READY TO WED. SURELY YOU MUSTN'T TRY TO FORCE HER TO TAKE THIS IMPORTANT STEP BEFORE SHE IS READY TO DEVOTE HERSELF ENTIRELY TO YOUR HAPPINESS

Dear Love Romances,

One of the elevator operators in the building where I work is a very good looking fellow He always talks to me and isn't a bit fresh. Recently he asked me for a date I have been riding in his elevator for two years now, so I think I know him well enough to go out with him But my mother says we haven't been properly introduced, and doesn't want me to date him I want to get to know him, but I don't want to go against her wishes. What shall I do?

E.F.R. Chicago

DEAR E.F.R.

OF COURSE YOU DO NOT WANT TO GO AGAINST YOUR MOTHER'S WISHES. SHE HAS THE ADVANTAGE OF EXPERIENCE WHICH YOU SHOULD NOT OVERLOOK.

WHY DON'T YOU TALK TO YOUR MOTHER AGAIN AND SUGGEST THAT YOU INVITE THIS YOUNG MAN OVER FOR DINNER, TO MEET YOUR PARENTS? IF SHE AGREES TO THIS, THEN SURELY EVERYTHING WILL BE SOLVED. HOWEVER, IF YOUR MOTHER STILL FEELS YOU SHOULD NOT GO OUT WITH THIS MAN, WE CANNOT ADVISE YOU TO DISREGARD HER WORDS FOR A MISJUDGMENT IN A MATTER OF THIS KIND IS LIABLE TO CAUSE YOU FUTURE HEARTBREAK!

Dear Editors,

I am 25 and single. All of my friends are happily married, and it is a constant worry to me that I never go out with men I am not beautiful and am tired of feeling that my looks will cheat me out of the happiness every woman deserves.

Can you give me any suggestions?

H.B.

Dalhart, Texas

DEAR H.B.

IF BEAUTY WERE ESSENTIAL FOR MARRIAGE, WOULD THERE BE SO MANY MARRIED WOMEN? YOUR THINKING IS BLOCKED BY THE FALLACY THAT MEN MARRY FOR LOOKS. ACTUALLY, THE QUALITIES A MAN WANTS TO FIND IN A WOMAN ARE INTELLIGENCE, PERSONALITY, AND LOVABLENESS.

HERE ARE SOME TIPS ON HOW TO MAKE MEN FORGET THAT YOU "AREN'T BEAUTIFUL"... STUDY FASHIONS AND MAKEUP TO DISCOVER HOW THEY CAN HEIGHTEN YOUR BEST FEATURES. SHOP ACCORDINGLY. ALWAYS BE WELL-GROOMED.

IF YOU OBSERVE WOMEN WHO ARE POPULAR WITH MEN, YOU WILL REALIZE THAT THEY ARE NOT ALWAYS POTENTIAL BEAUTY QUEENS. BUT THEY ARE ALWAYS CHARMING AND GOOD CONVERSATIONALISTS. MAKE YOURSELF SO ENTERTAINING AND PERSONABLE THAT MEN WILL WANT TO BE AROUND YOU!

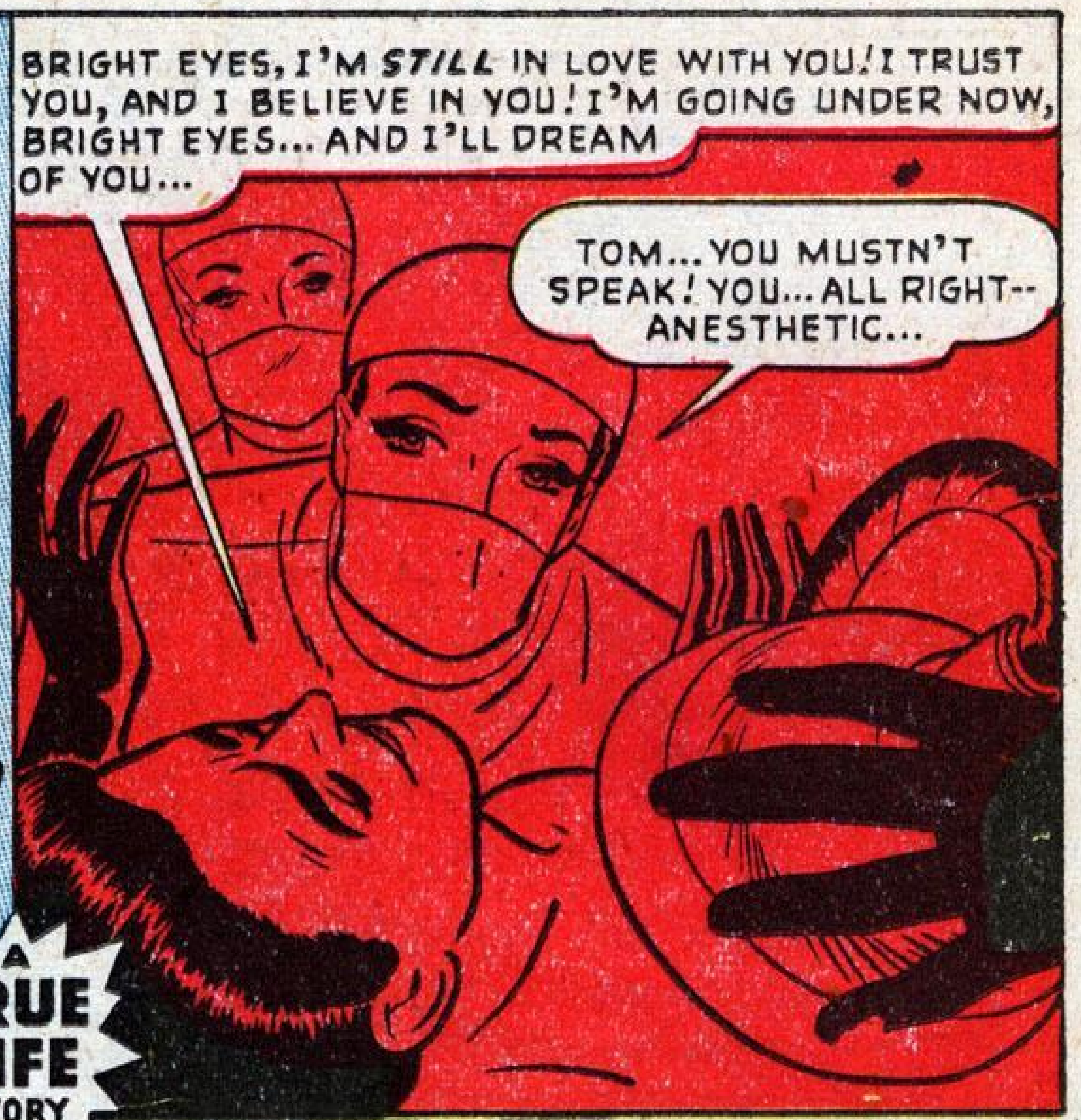
WE MAY BE ABLE TO CAST SOME LIGHT ON *YOUR* PROBLEM, TOO!
SEND IT IN CARE OF:
THE EDITORS, LOVE ROMANCES
SUITE 1404 - 350 FIFTH AVE.
NEW YORK 1, NEW YORK

THE HEART-RENDING STORY OF A GIRL WHO GAVE UP THE ONE THING SHE HAD STRIVED FOR ALL HER LIFE, ONLY TO LEARN THRU HER BITTER TEARS THAT...

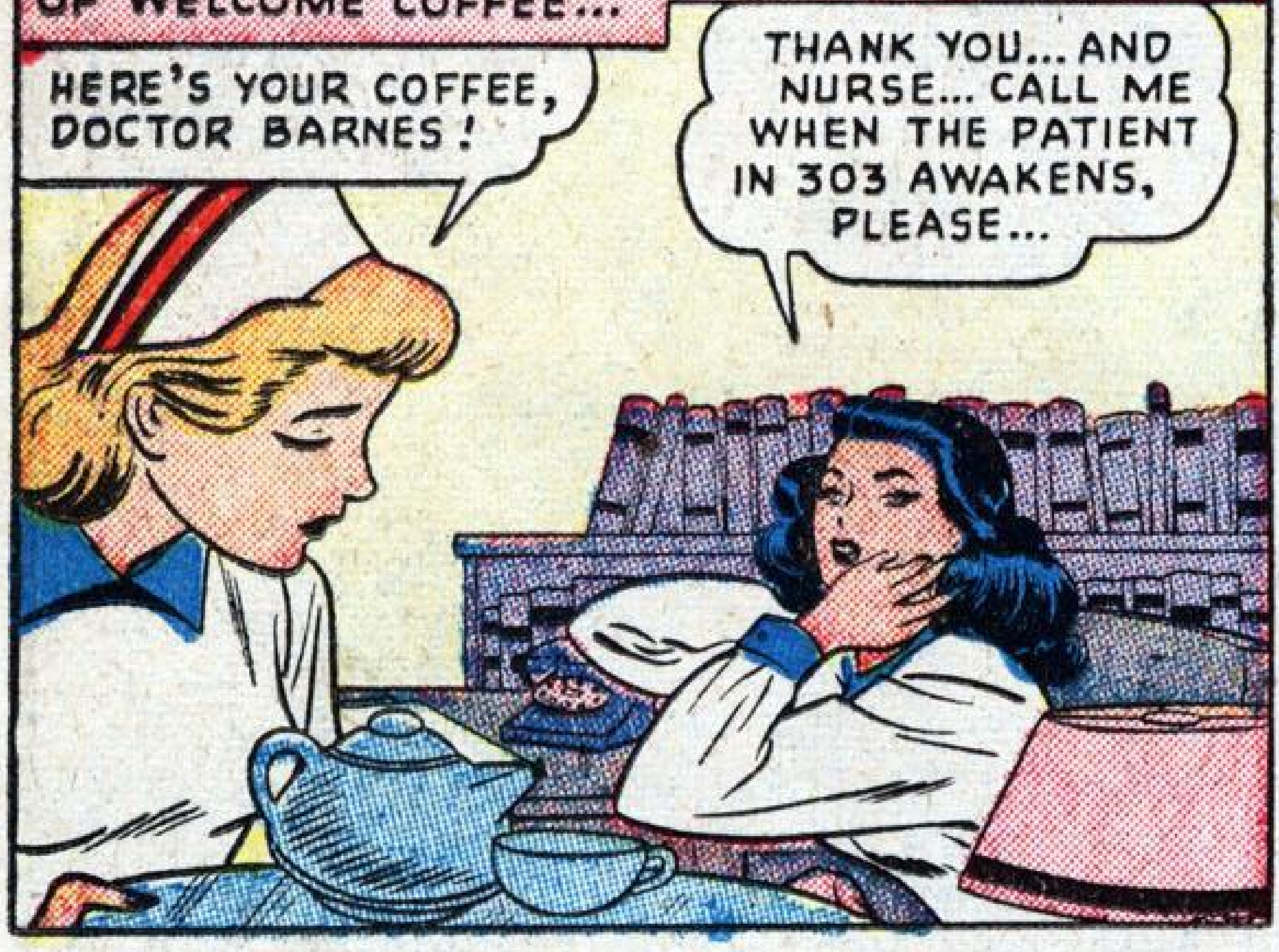
"LOVE CANNOT DIE!"

A TRUE LIFE STORY

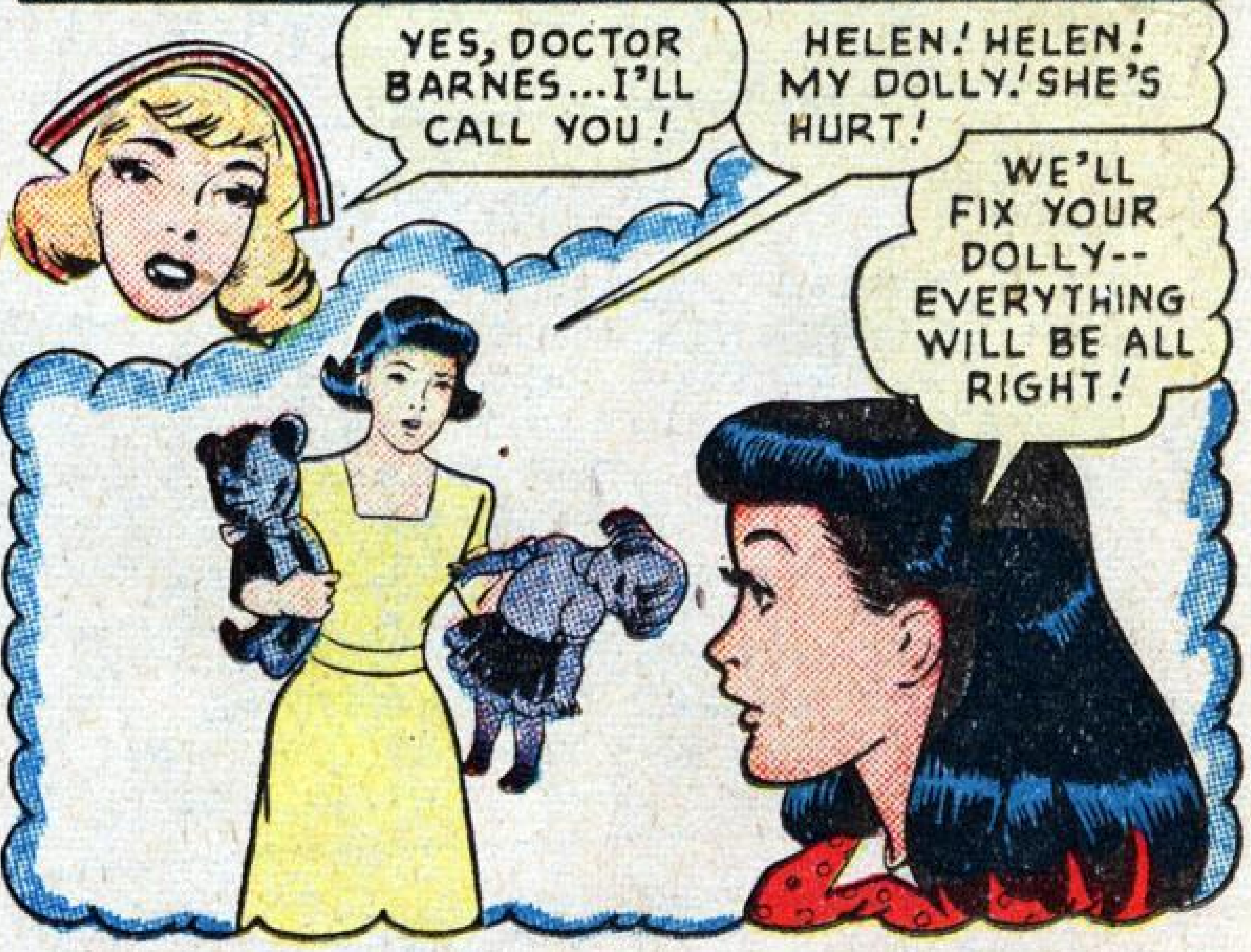
5133


BRIGHT EYES, I'M *STILL* IN LOVE WITH YOU! I TRUST YOU, AND I BELIEVE IN YOU! I'M GOING UNDER NOW, BRIGHT EYES... AND I'LL DREAM OF YOU...
TOM... YOU MUSTN'T SPEAK! YOU... ALL RIGHT-- ANESTHETIC...

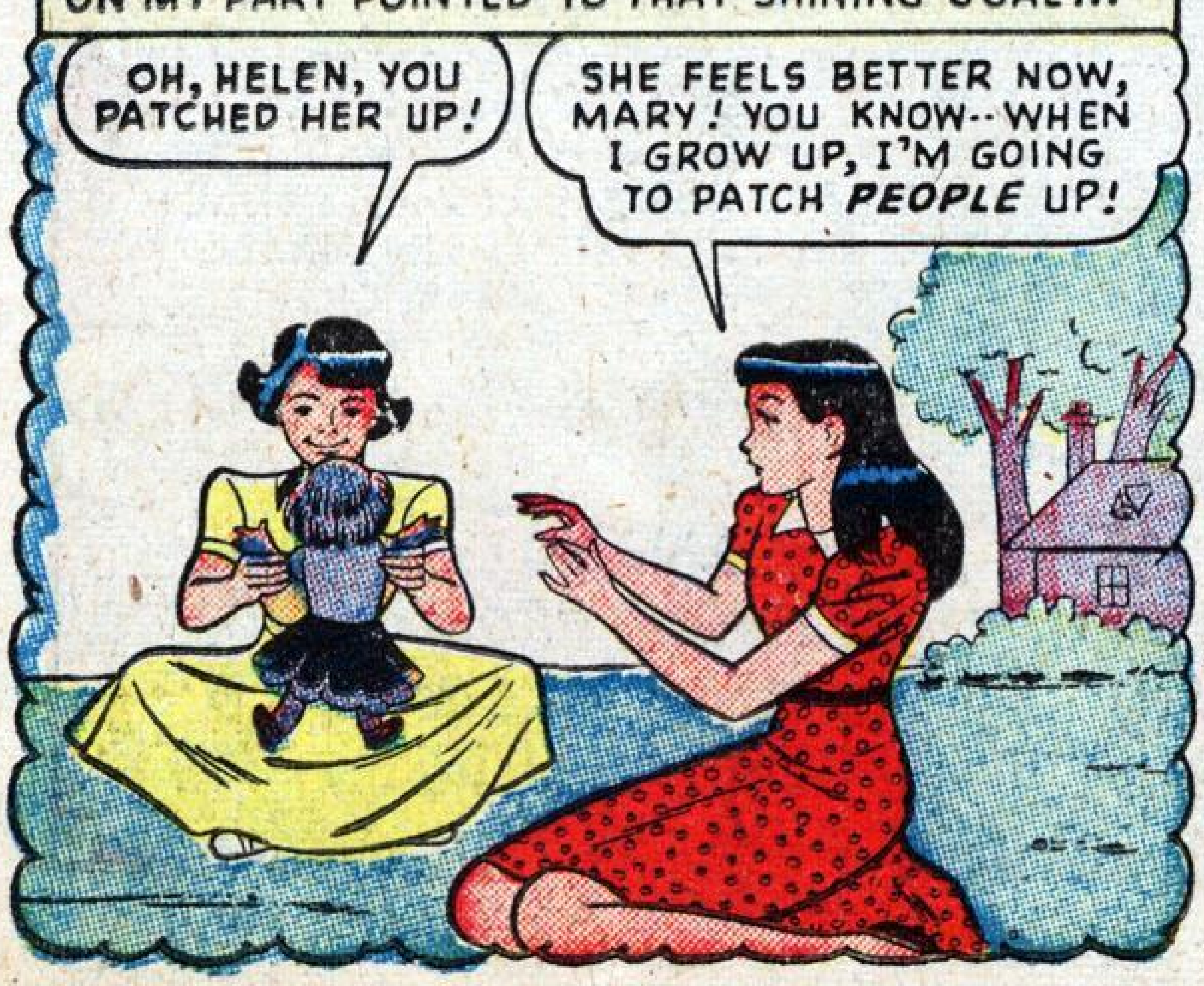
WHY IS IT WHEN YOU'RE BONE-WEARY--TIRED TO THE POINT OF NUMBED EXHAUSTION--YOUR BRAIN SEEMS WIDE AWAKE, FOCUSING WITH CAMERALIKE ACCURACY ON A THOUGHT? IT HAD BEEN A HARD DAY IN THE OPERATING ROOM AT NORTHFIELD GENERAL HOSPITAL! I SLUMPED WITH FATIGUE AT MY DESK, WHEN NURSE CRANDALL ENTERED WITH THE TRAY OF WELCOME COFFEE...


HERE'S YOUR COFFEE, DOCTOR BARNES!
THANK YOU... AND NURSE... CALL ME WHEN THE PATIENT IN 303 AWAKENS, PLEASE...

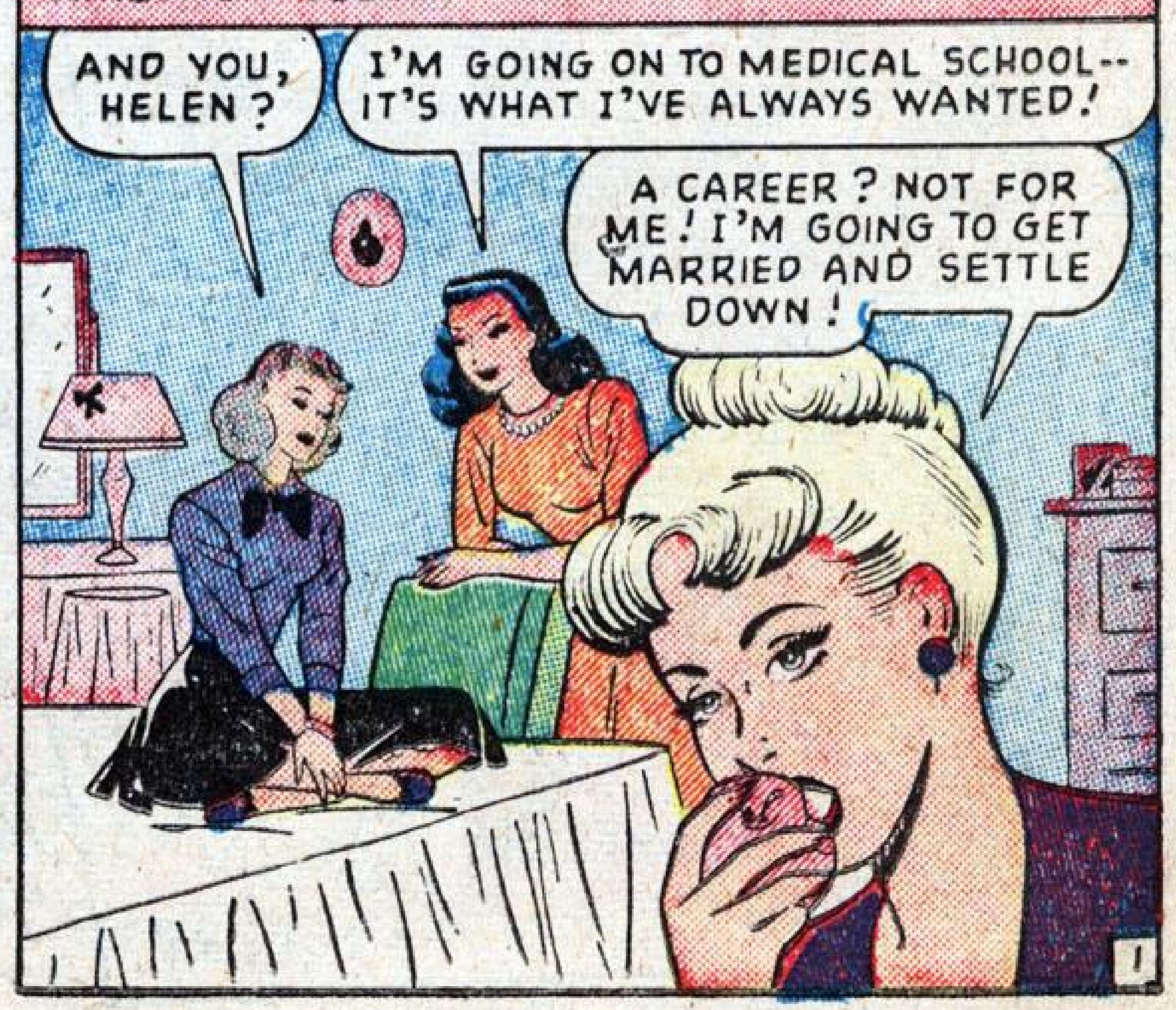
I HEARD NURSE CRANDALL'S ANSWER BUT, EVEN AS SHE SPOKE, I WAS WAFTED DOWN ON THE MANTLE OF MEMORY, BACK THROUGH THE YEARS... AND THERE I SAW THE SHIFTING, CHANGING PATTERN OF MY LIFE ETCHED SHARPLY ON THE SCREEN OF RECOLLECTION... AND I WAS A LITTLE GIRL AGAIN...

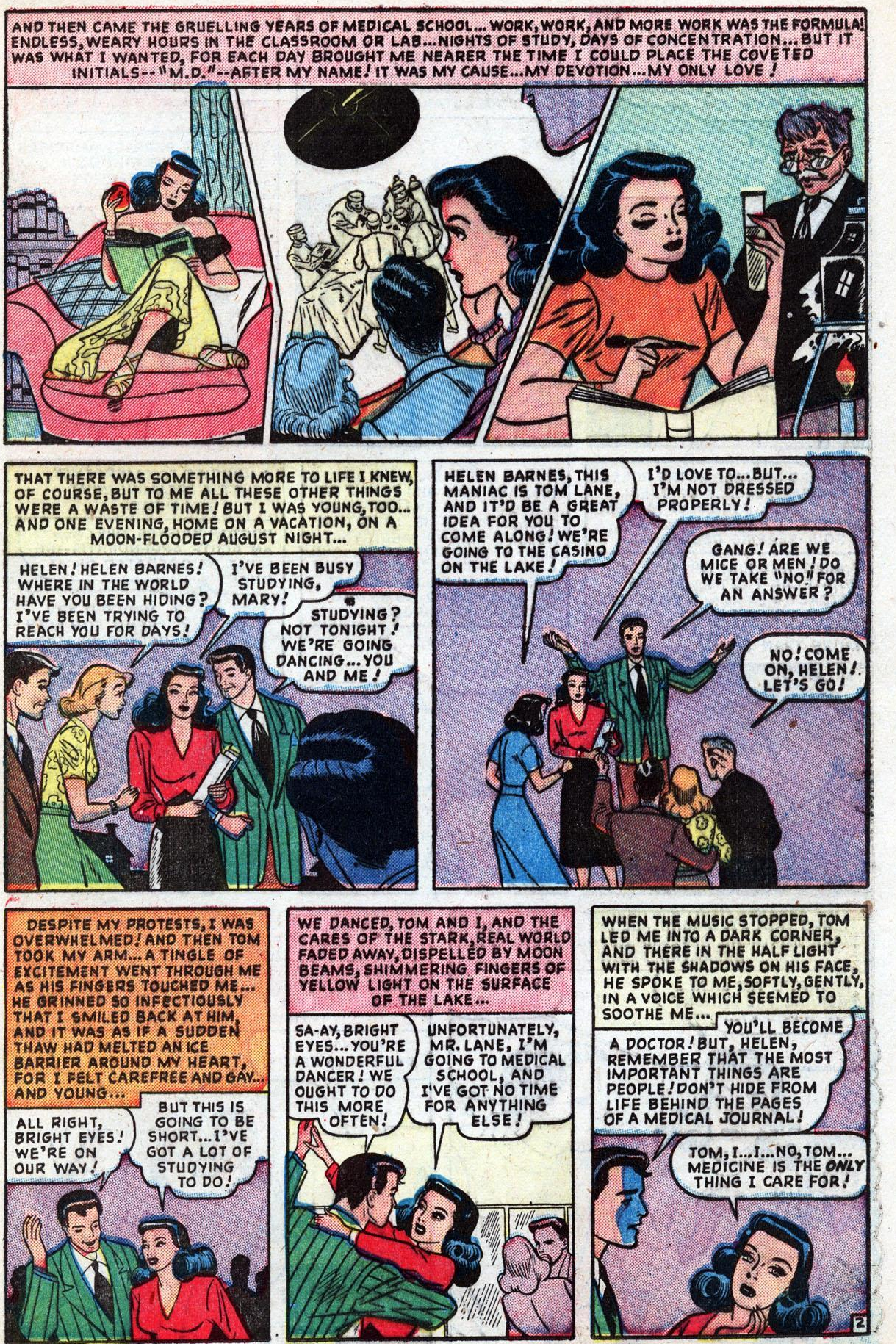

YES, DOCTOR BARNES... I'LL CALL YOU!
HELEN! HELEN! MY DOLLY! SHE'S HURT!
WE'LL FIX YOUR DOLLY-- EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT!

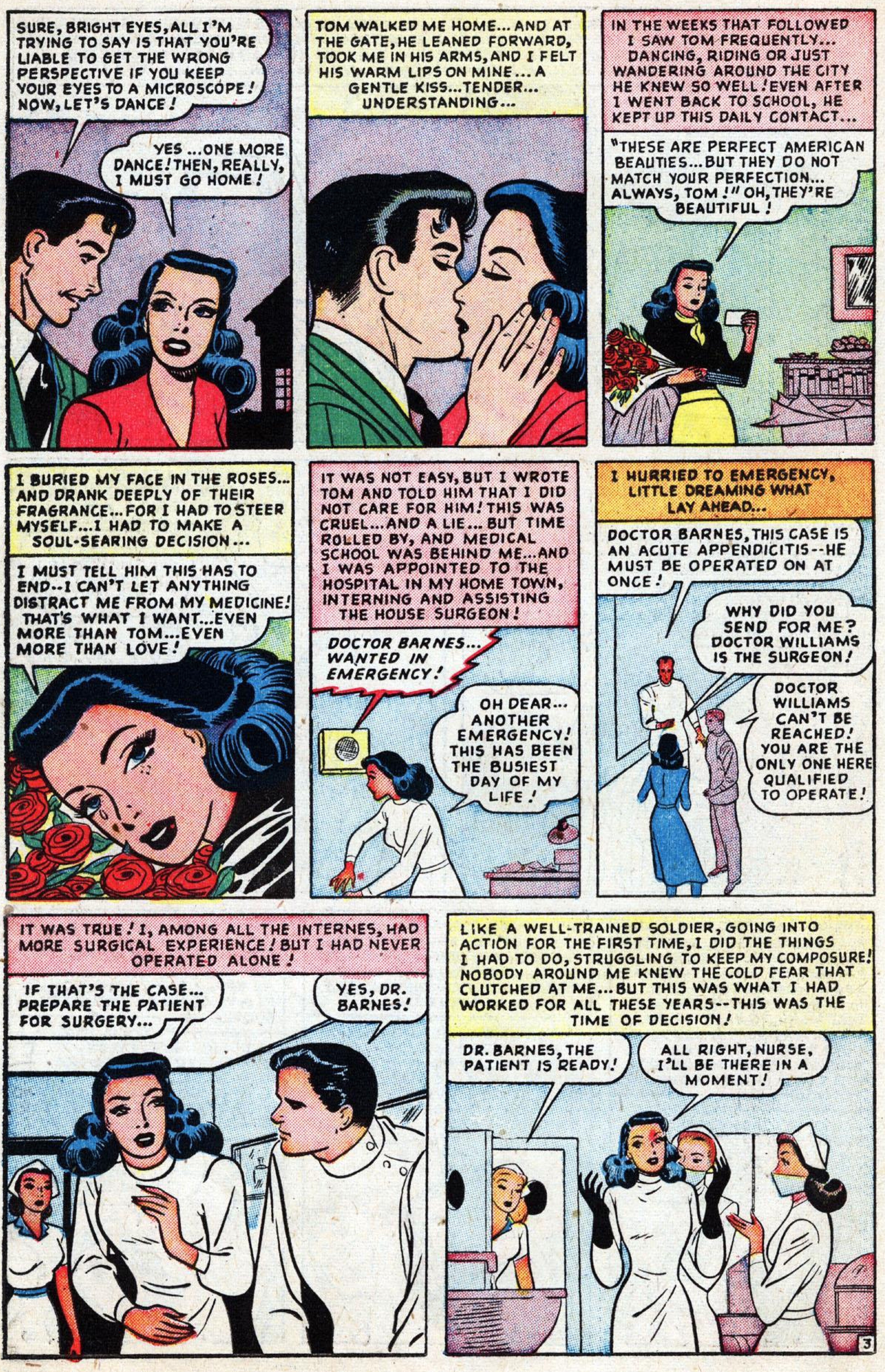
EVEN THEN, IN THOSE GLORIOUS DAYS WHEN EVERY TEAR WAS INSTANTLY DRIED BY THE HEALTHY SUNSHINE OF YOUTH... I KNEW I WANTED TO BE A SURGEON WHEN I GREW UP... AND EVERY ACTION ON MY PART POINTED TO THAT SHINING GOAL...

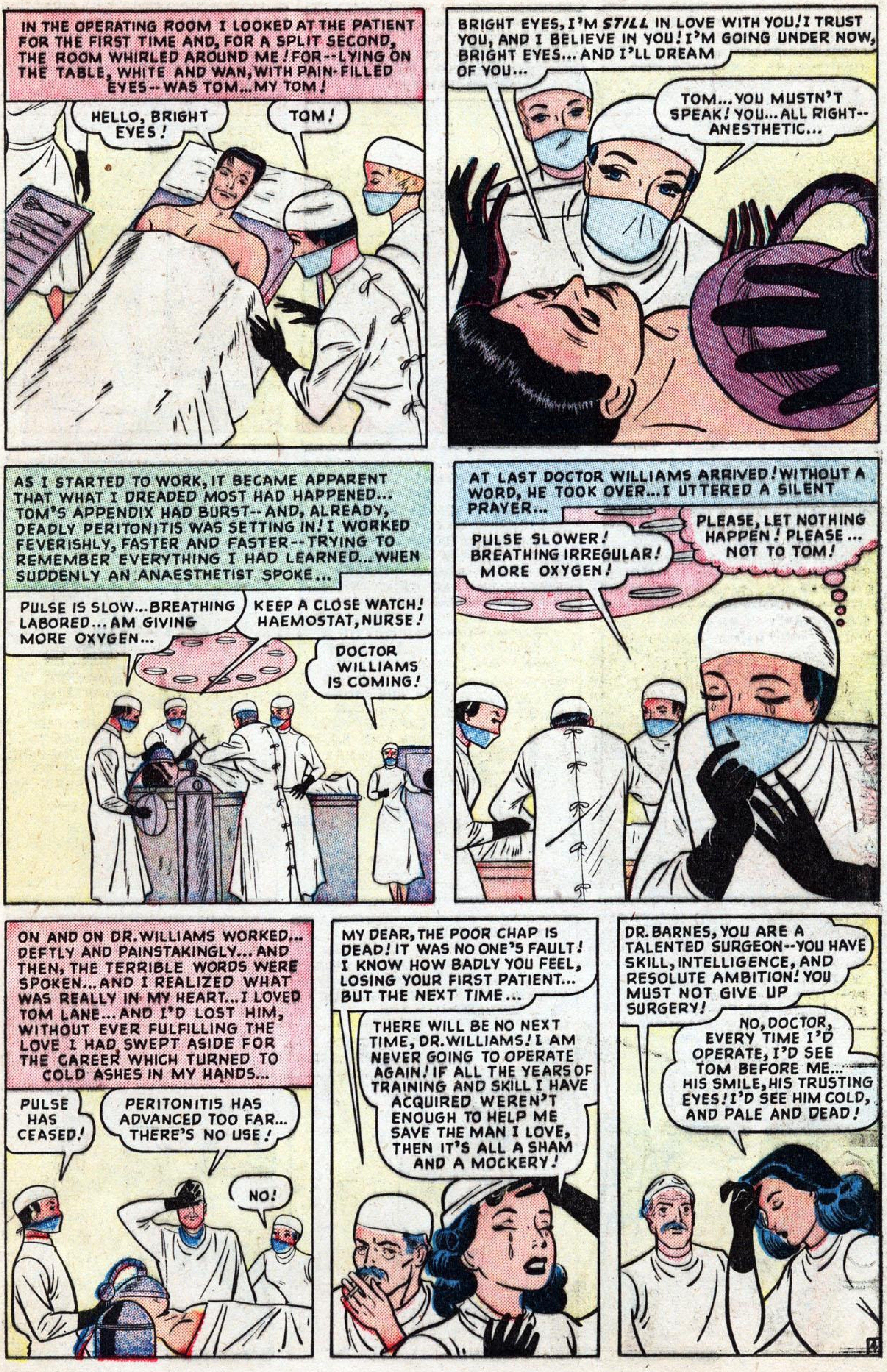

OH, HELEN, YOU PATCHED HER UP!
SHE FEELS BETTER NOW, MARY! YOU KNOW--WHEN I GROW UP, I'M GOING TO PATCH *PEOPLE* UP!

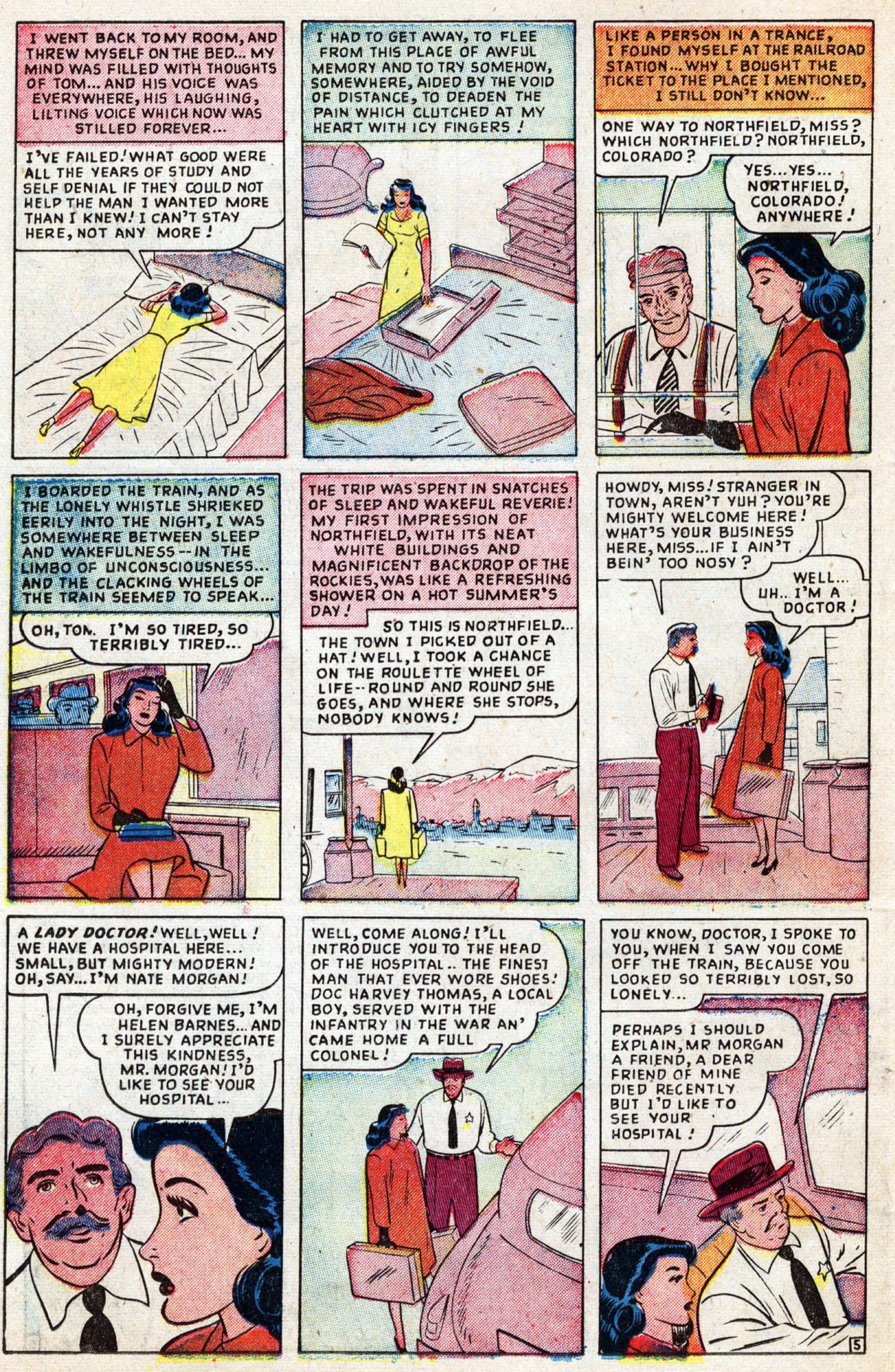
THE YEARS ROLLED BY... ON THE EVE OF MY GRADUATION FROM COLLEGE, MY CLASSMATES AND I COMPARED NOTES, EACH TELLING THE AMBITION CLOSEST TO HER HEART...

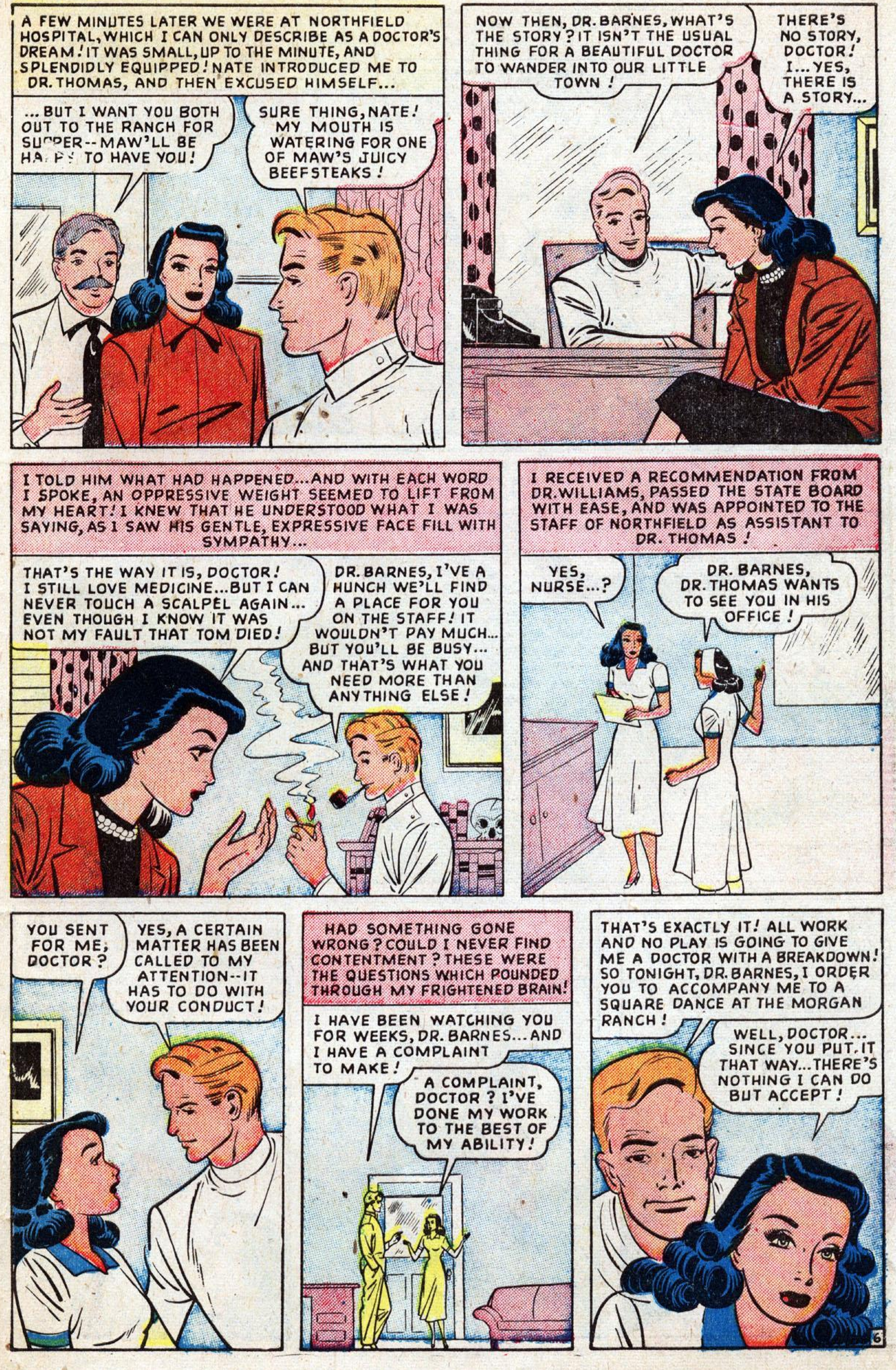

AND YOU, HELEN?
I'M GOING ON TO MEDICAL SCHOOL-- IT'S WHAT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED!
A CAREER? NOT FOR ME! I'M GOING TO GET MARRIED AND SETTLE DOWN!

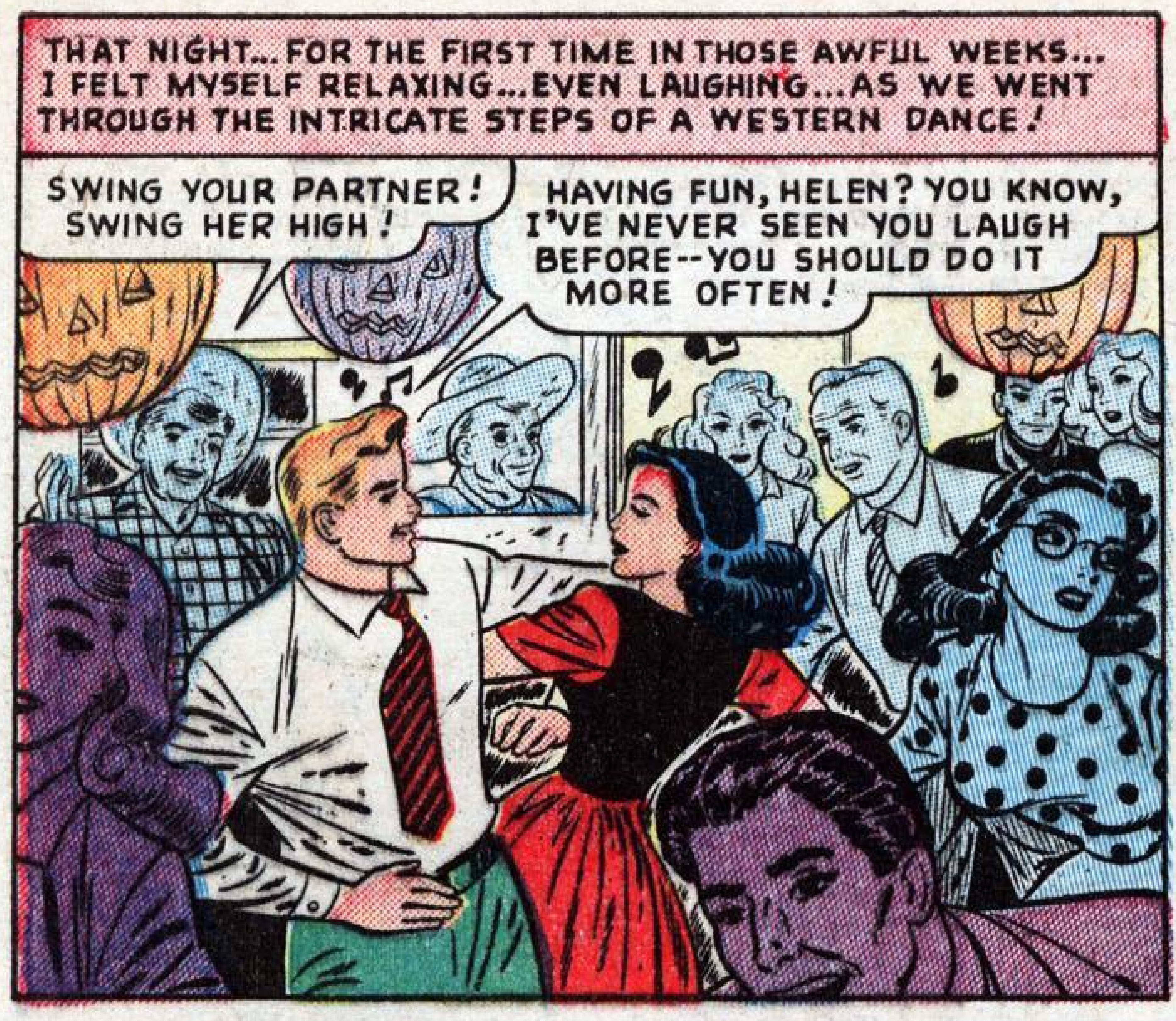

AND THEN CAME THE GRUELLING YEARS OF MEDICAL SCHOOL... WORK, WORK, AND MORE WORK WAS THE FORMULA! ENDLESS, WEARY HOURS IN THE CLASSROOM OR LAB... NIGHTS OF STUDY, DAYS OF CONCENTRATION... BUT IT WAS WHAT I WANTED, FOR EACH DAY BROUGHT ME NEARER THE TIME I COULD PLACE THE COVETED INITIALS--"M.D."--AFTER MY NAME! IT WAS MY CAUSE... MY DEVOTION... MY ONLY LOVE!
THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING MORE TO LIFE I KNEW, OF COURSE, BUT TO ME ALL THESE OTHER THINGS WERE A WASTE OF TIME! BUT I WAS YOUNG, TOO... AND ONE EVENING, HOME ON A VACATION, ON A MOON-FLOODED AUGUST NIGHT...
HELEN! HELEN BARNES! WHERE IN THE WORLD HAVE YOU BEEN HIDING? I'VE BEEN TRYING TO REACH YOU FOR DAYS!
I'VE BEEN BUSY STUDYING, MARY!
STUDYING? NOT TONIGHT! WE'RE GOING DANCING... YOU AND ME!
HELEN BARNES, THIS MANIAC IS TOM LANE, AND IT'D BE A GREAT IDEA FOR YOU TO COME ALONG! WE'RE GOING TO THE CASINO ON THE LAKE!
I'D LOVE TO... BUT... I'M NOT DRESSED PROPERLY!
GANG! ARE WE MICE OR MEN! DO WE TAKE "NO!" FOR AN ANSWER?
NO! COME ON, HELEN! LET'S GO!
DESPITE MY PROTESTS, I WAS OVERWHELMED! AND THEN TOM TOOK MY ARM... A TINGLE OF EXCITEMENT WENT THROUGH ME AS HIS FINGERS TOUCHED ME... HE GRINNED SO INFECTIOUSLY THAT I SMILED BACK AT HIM, AND IT WAS AS IF A SUDDEN THAW HAD MELTED AN ICE BARRIER AROUND MY HEART, FOR I FELT CAREFREE AND GAY... AND YOUNG...
ALL RIGHT, BRIGHT EYES! WE'RE ON OUR WAY!
BUT THIS IS GOING TO BE SHORT... I'VE GOT A LOT OF STUDYING TO DO!
WE DANCED, TOM AND I, AND THE CARES OF THE STARK, REAL WORLD FADED AWAY, DISPELLED BY MOON BEAMS, SHIMMERING FINGERS OF YELLOW LIGHT ON THE SURFACE OF THE LAKE...
SA-AY, BRIGHT EYES... YOU'RE A WONDERFUL DANCER! WE OUGHT TO DO THIS MORE OFTEN!
UNFORTUNATELY, MR. LANE, I'M GOING TO MEDICAL SCHOOL, AND I'VE GOT NO TIME FOR ANYTHING ELSE!
WHEN THE MUSIC STOPPED, TOM LED ME INTO A DARK CORNER, AND THERE IN THE HALF LIGHT WITH THE SHADOWS ON HIS FACE, HE SPOKE TO ME, SOFTLY, GENTLY, IN A VOICE WHICH SEEMED TO SOOTHE ME...
YOU'LL BECOME A DOCTOR! BUT, HELEN, REMEMBER THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS ARE PEOPLE! DON'T HIDE FROM LIFE BEHIND THE PAGES OF A MEDICAL JOURNAL!
TOM, I... I... NO, TOM... MEDICINE IS THE *ONLY* THING I CARE FOR!

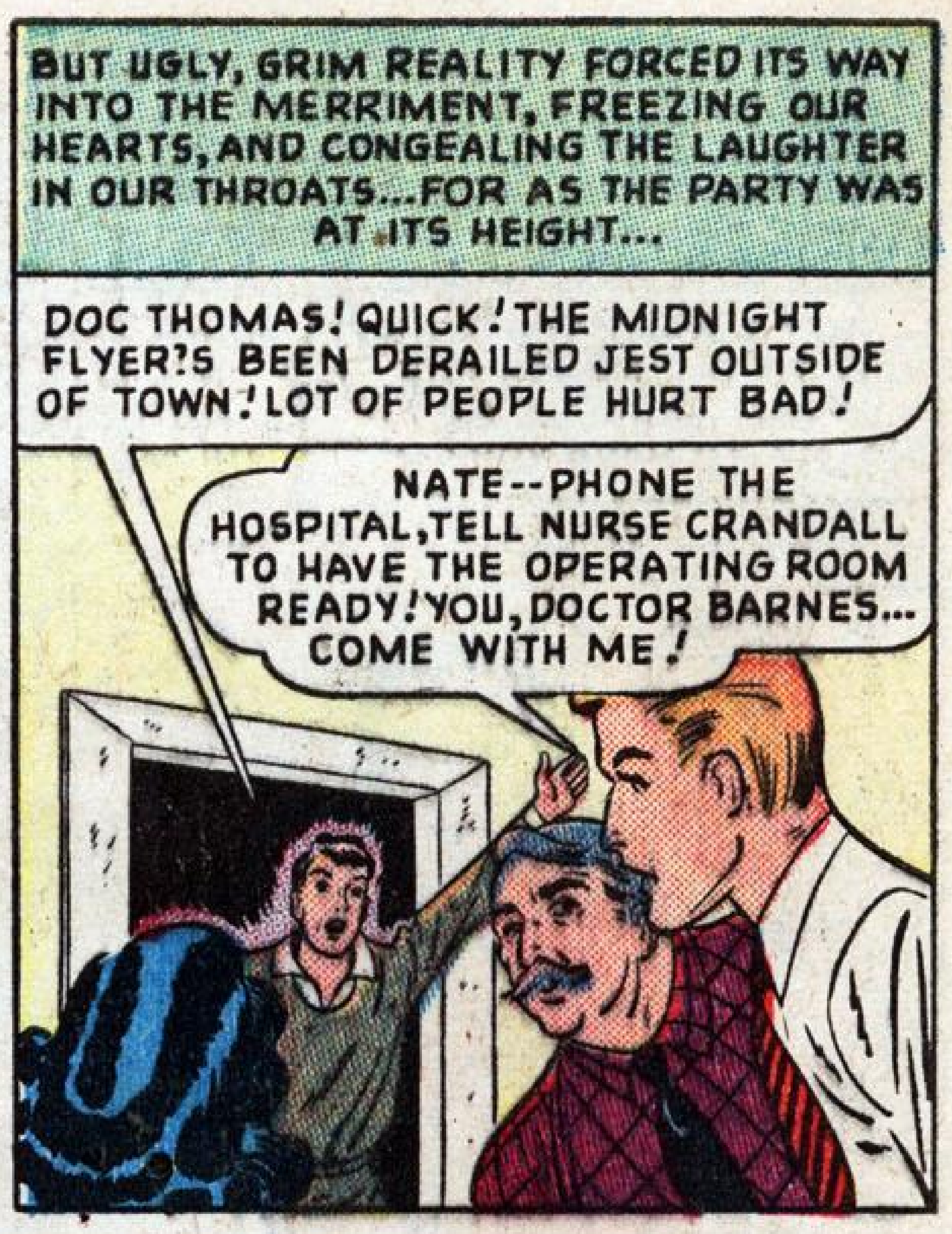

SURE, BRIGHT EYES, ALL I'M TRYING TO SAY IS THAT YOU'RE LIABLE TO GET THE WRONG PERSPECTIVE IF YOU KEEP YOUR EYES TO A MICROSCOPE! NOW, LET'S DANCE!
YES ...ONE MORE DANCE! THEN, REALLY, I MUST GO HOME!
TOM WALKED ME HOME... AND AT THE GATE, HE LEANED FORWARD, TOOK ME IN HIS ARMS, AND I FELT HIS WARM LIPS ON MINE... A GENTLE KISS...TENDER... UNDERSTANDING...
IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED I SAW TOM FREQUENTLY... DANCING, RIDING OR JUST WANDERING AROUND THE CITY HE KNEW SO WELL! EVEN AFTER I WENT BACK TO SCHOOL, HE KEPT UP THIS DAILY CONTACT...
"THESE ARE PERFECT AMERICAN BEAUTIES... BUT THEY DO NOT MATCH YOUR PERFECTION... ALWAYS, TOM!" OH, THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL!
I BURIED MY FACE IN THE ROSES... AND DRANK DEEPLY OF THEIR FRAGRANCE... FOR I HAD TO STEER MYSELF... I HAD TO MAKE A SOUL-SEARING DECISION...
I MUST TELL HIM THIS HAS TO END--I CAN'T LET ANYTHING DISTRACT ME FROM MY MEDICINE! THAT'S WHAT I WANT... EVEN MORE THAN TOM... EVEN MORE THAN LOVE!
IT WAS NOT EASY, BUT I WROTE TOM AND TOLD HIM THAT I DID NOT CARE FOR HIM! THIS WAS CRUEL... AND A LIE... BUT TIME ROLLED BY, AND MEDICAL SCHOOL WAS BEHIND ME... AND I WAS APPOINTED TO THE HOSPITAL IN MY HOME TOWN, INTERNING AND ASSISTING THE HOUSE SURGEON!
DOCTOR BARNES... WANTED IN EMERGENCY!
OH DEAR... ANOTHER EMERGENCY! THIS HAS BEEN THE BUSIEST DAY OF MY LIFE!
I HURRIED TO EMERGENCY, LITTLE DREAMING WHAT LAY AHEAD...
DOCTOR BARNES, THIS CASE IS AN ACUTE APPENDICITIS--HE MUST BE OPERATED ON AT ONCE!
WHY DID YOU SEND FOR ME? DOCTOR WILLIAMS IS THE SURGEON!
DOCTOR WILLIAMS CAN'T BE REACHED! YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE HERE QUALIFIED TO OPERATE!
IT WAS TRUE! I, AMONG ALL THE INTERNES, HAD MORE SURGICAL EXPERIENCE! BUT I HAD NEVER OPERATED ALONE!
IF THAT'S THE CASE... PREPARE THE PATIENT FOR SURGERY...
YES, DR. BARNES!
LIKE A WELL-TRAINED SOLDIER, GOING INTO ACTION FOR THE FIRST TIME, I DID THE THINGS I HAD TO DO, STRUGGLING TO KEEP MY COMPOSURE! NOBODY AROUND ME KNEW THE COLD FEAR THAT CLUTCHED AT ME... BUT THIS WAS WHAT I HAD WORKED FOR ALL THESE YEARS--THIS WAS THE TIME OF DECISION!
DR. BARNES, THE PATIENT IS READY!
ALL RIGHT, NURSE, I'LL BE THERE IN A MOMENT!

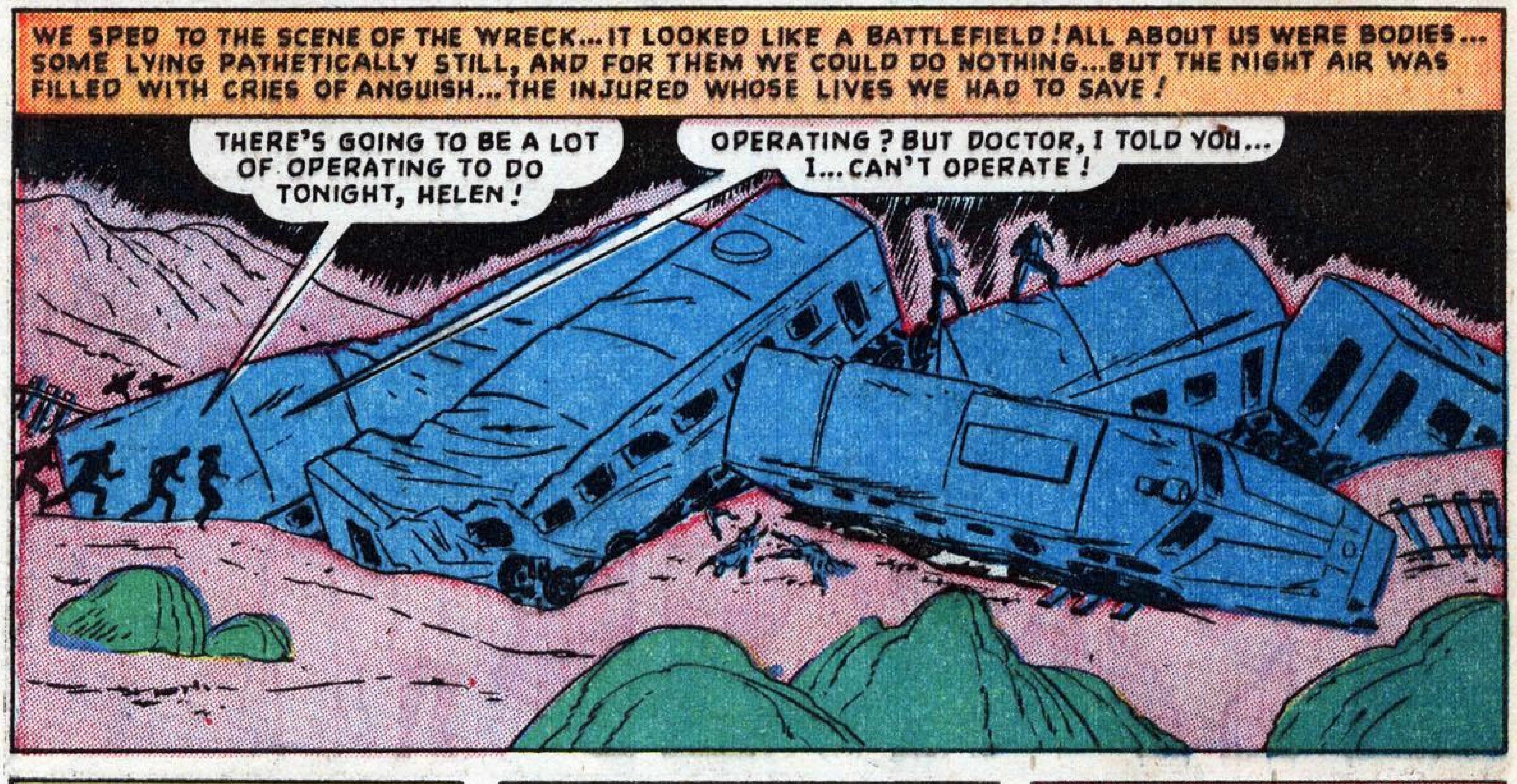

IN THE OPERATING ROOM I LOOKED AT THE PATIENT FOR THE FIRST TIME AND, FOR A SPLIT SECOND, THE ROOM WHIRLED AROUND ME! FOR--LYING ON THE TABLE, WHITE AND WAN, WITH PAIN-FILLED EYES--WAS TOM...MY TOM!
HELLO, BRIGHT EYES!
TOM!
BRIGHT EYES, I'M *STILL* IN LOVE WITH YOU! I TRUST YOU, AND I BELIEVE IN YOU! I'M GOING UNDER NOW, BRIGHT EYES... AND I'LL DREAM OF YOU...
TOM... YOU MUSTN'T SPEAK! YOU... ALL RIGHT--ANESTHETIC...
AS I STARTED TO WORK, IT BECAME APPARENT THAT WHAT I DREADED MOST HAD HAPPENED... TOM'S APPENDIX HAD BURST--AND, ALREADY, DEADLY PERITONITIS WAS SETTING IN! I WORKED FEVERISHLY, FASTER AND FASTER--TRYING TO REMEMBER EVERYTHING I HAD LEARNED... WHEN SUDDENLY AN ANAESTHETIST SPOKE...
PULSE IS SLOW... BREATHING LABORED... AM GIVING MORE OXYGEN...
KEEP A CLOSE WATCH! HAEMOSTAT, NURSE!
DOCTOR WILLIAMS IS COMING!
AT LAST DOCTOR WILLIAMS ARRIVED! WITHOUT A WORD, HE TOOK OVER... I UTTERED A SILENT PRAYER...
PULSE SLOWER! BREATHING IRREGULAR! MORE OXYGEN!
PLEASE, LET NOTHING HAPPEN! PLEASE... NOT TO TOM!
ON AND ON DR. WILLIAMS WORKED... DEFTLY AND PAINSTAKINGLY... AND THEN, THE TERRIBLE WORDS WERE SPOKEN... AND I REALIZED WHAT WAS REALLY IN MY HEART... I LOVED TOM LANE... AND I'D LOST HIM, WITHOUT EVER FULFILLING THE LOVE I HAD SWEPT ASIDE FOR THE CAREER WHICH TURNED TO COLD ASHES IN MY HANDS...
PULSE HAS CEASED!
PERITONITIS HAS ADVANCED TOO FAR... THERE'S NO USE!
NO!
MY DEAR, THE POOR CHAP IS DEAD! IT WAS NO ONE'S FAULT! I KNOW HOW BADLY YOU FEEL, LOSING YOUR FIRST PATIENT... BUT THE NEXT TIME...
THERE WILL BE NO NEXT TIME, DR. WILLIAMS! I AM NEVER GOING TO OPERATE AGAIN! IF ALL THE YEARS OF TRAINING AND SKILL I HAVE ACQUIRED WEREN'T ENOUGH TO HELP ME SAVE THE MAN I LOVE, THEN IT'S ALL A SHAM AND A MOCKERY!
DR. BARNES, YOU ARE A TALENTED SURGEON--YOU HAVE SKILL, INTELLIGENCE, AND RESOLUTE AMBITION! YOU MUST NOT GIVE UP SURGERY!
NO, DOCTOR, EVERY TIME I'D OPERATE, I'D SEE TOM BEFORE ME... HIS SMILE, HIS TRUSTING EYES! I'D SEE HIM COLD, AND PALE AND DEAD!

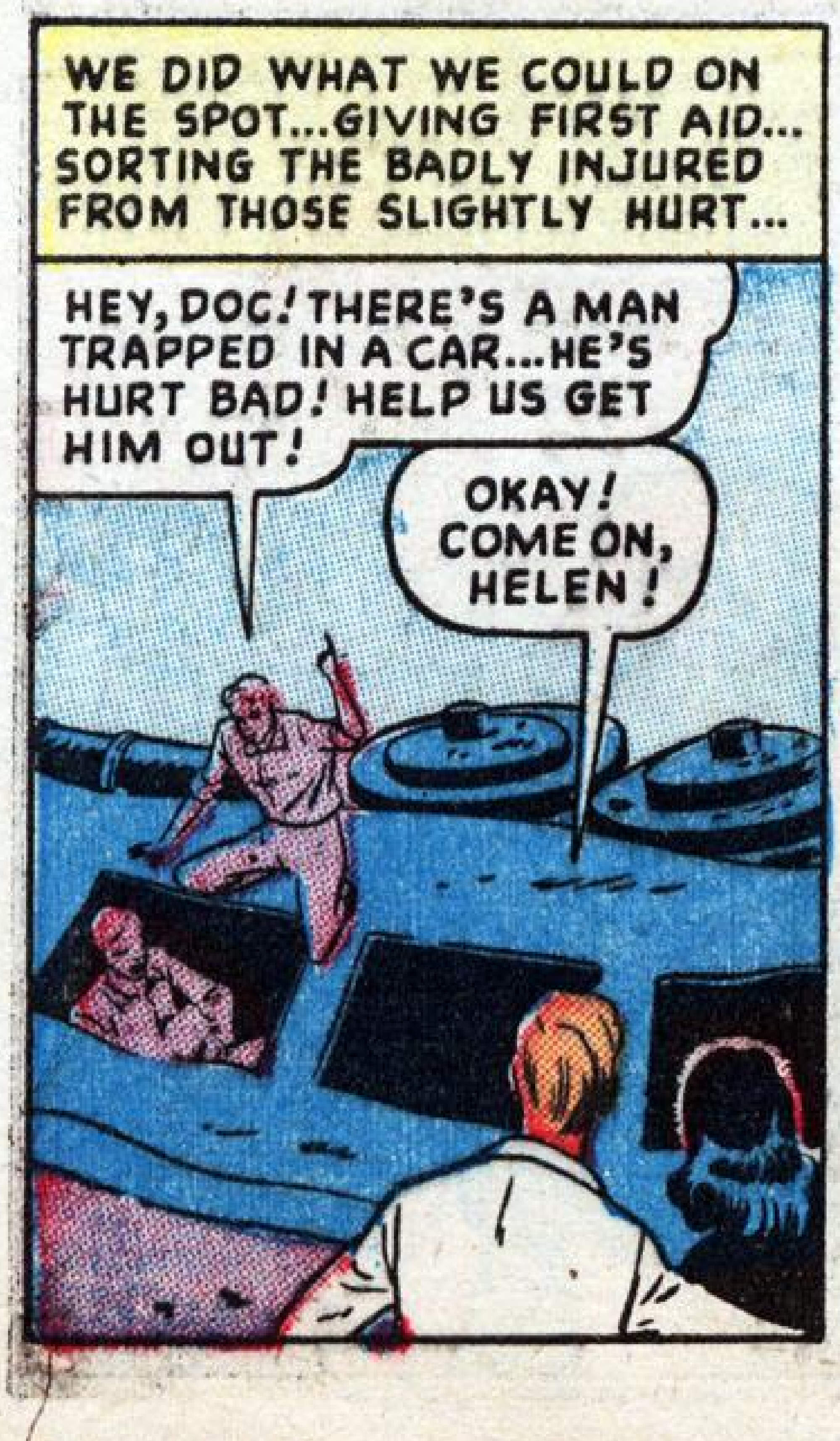

I WENT BACK TO MY ROOM, AND THREW MYSELF ON THE BED... MY MIND WAS FILLED WITH THOUGHTS OF TOM... AND HIS VOICE WAS EVERYWHERE, HIS LAUGHING, LILTING VOICE WHICH NOW WAS STILLED FOREVER...
I'VE FAILED! WHAT GOOD WERE ALL THE YEARS OF STUDY AND SELF DENIAL IF THEY COULD NOT HELP THE MAN I WANTED MORE THAN I KNEW! I CAN'T STAY HERE, NOT ANY MORE!
I HAD TO GET AWAY, TO FLEE FROM THIS PLACE OF AWFUL MEMORY AND TO TRY SOMEHOW, SOMEWHERE, AIDED BY THE VOID OF DISTANCE, TO DEADEN THE PAIN WHICH CLUTCHED AT MY HEART WITH ICY FINGERS!
LIKE A PERSON IN A TRANCE, I FOUND MYSELF AT THE RAILROAD STATION... WHY I BOUGHT THE TICKET TO THE PLACE I MENTIONED, I STILL DON'T KNOW...
ONE WAY TO NORTHFIELD, MISS? WHICH NORTHFIELD? NORTHFIELD, COLORADO?
YES... YES... NORTHFIELD, COLORADO! ANYWHERE!
I BOARDED THE TRAIN, AND AS THE LONELY WHISTLE SHRIEKED EERILY INTO THE NIGHT, I WAS SOMEWHERE BETWEEN SLEEP AND WAKEFULNESS -- IN THE LIMBO OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS... AND THE CLACKING WHEELS OF THE TRAIN SEEMED TO SPEAK...
OH, TOM. I'M SO TIRED, SO TERRIBLY TIRED...
THE TRIP WAS SPENT IN SNATCHES OF SLEEP AND WAKEFUL REVERIE! MY FIRST IMPRESSION OF NORTHFIELD, WITH ITS NEAT WHITE BUILDINGS AND MAGNIFICENT BACKDROP OF THE ROCKIES, WAS LIKE A REFRESHING SHOWER ON A HOT SUMMER'S DAY!
SO THIS IS NORTHFIELD... THE TOWN I PICKED OUT OF A HAT! WELL, I TOOK A CHANCE ON THE ROULETTE WHEEL OF LIFE -- ROUND AND ROUND SHE GOES, AND WHERE SHE STOPS, NOBODY KNOWS!
HOWDY, MISS! STRANGER IN TOWN, AREN'T YUH? YOU'RE MIGHTY WELCOME HERE! WHAT'S YOUR BUSINESS HERE, MISS... IF I AIN'T BEIN' TOO NOSY?
WELL... UH... I'M A DOCTOR!
A *LADY DOCTOR*! WELL, WELL! WE HAVE A HOSPITAL HERE... SMALL, BUT MIGHTY MODERN! OH, SAY... I'M NATE MORGAN!
OH, FORGIVE ME, I'M HELEN BARNES... AND I SURELY APPRECIATE THIS KINDNESS, MR. MORGAN! I'D LIKE TO SEE YOUR HOSPITAL...
WELL, COME ALONG! I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO THE HEAD OF THE HOSPITAL.. THE FINEST MAN THAT EVER WORE SHOES! DOC HARVEY THOMAS, A LOCAL BOY, SERVED WITH THE INFANTRY IN THE WAR AN' CAME HOME A FULL COLONEL!
YOU KNOW, *DOCTOR*, I SPOKE TO YOU, WHEN I SAW YOU COME OFF THE TRAIN, BECAUSE YOU LOOKED SO TERRIBLY LOST, SO LONELY...
PERHAPS I SHOULD EXPLAIN, MR MORGAN A FRIEND, A DEAR FRIEND OF MINE DIED RECENTLY BUT I'D LIKE TO SEE YOUR HOSPITAL!

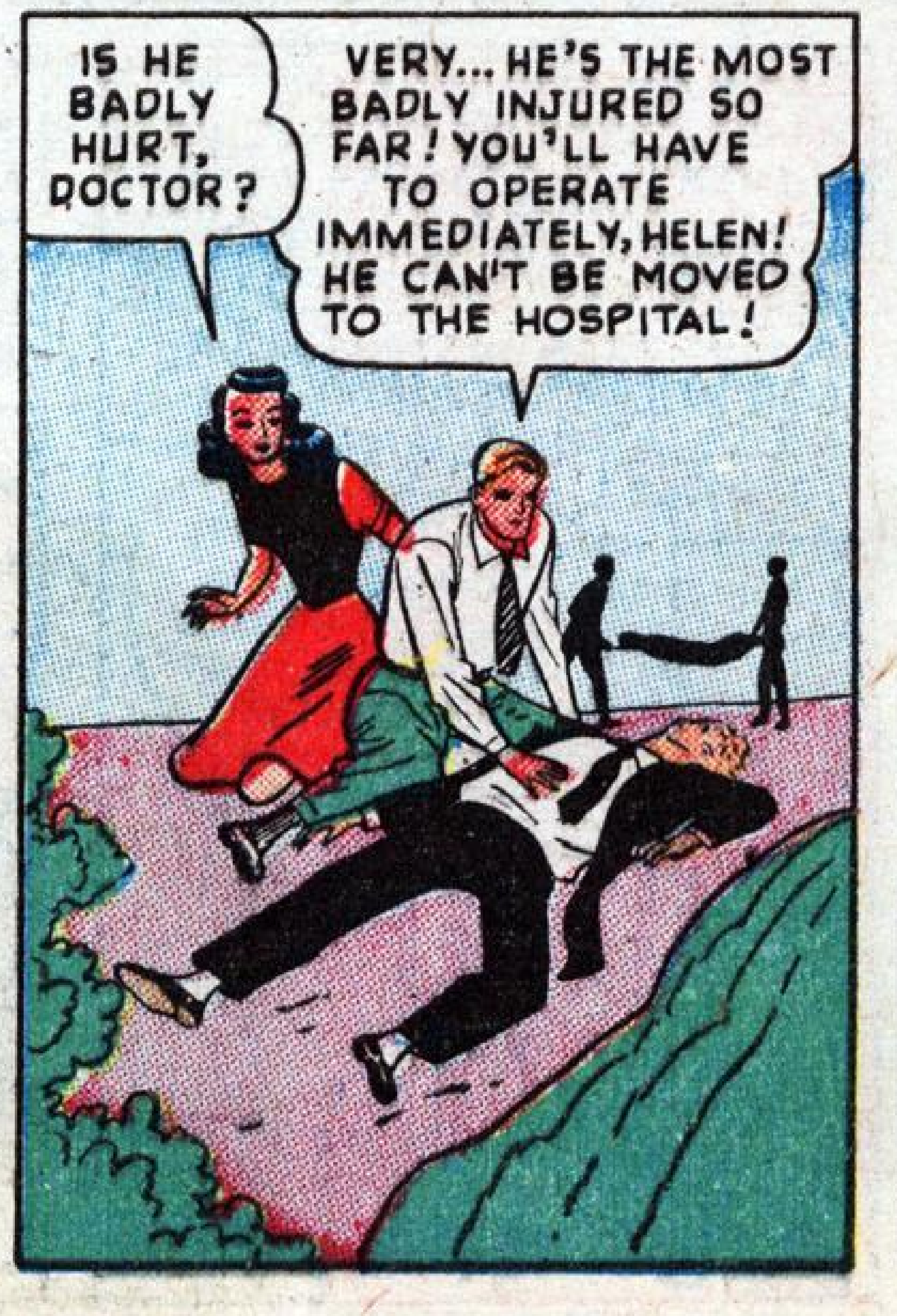

A FEW MINUTES LATER WE WERE AT NORTHFIELD HOSPITAL, WHICH I CAN ONLY DESCRIBE AS A DOCTOR'S DREAM! IT WAS SMALL, UP TO THE MINUTE, AND SPLENDIDLY EQUIPPED! NATE INTRODUCED ME TO DR. THOMAS, AND THEN EXCUSED HIMSELF...
... BUT I WANT YOU BOTH OUT TO THE RANCH FOR SUPPER--MAW'LL BE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU!
SURE THING, NATE! MY MOUTH IS WATERING FOR ONE OF MAW'S JUICY BEEFSTEAKS!
NOW THEN, DR. BARNES, WHAT'S THE STORY? IT ISN'T THE USUAL THING FOR A BEAUTIFUL DOCTOR TO WANDER INTO OUR LITTLE TOWN!
THERE'S NO STORY, DOCTOR! I... YES, THERE IS A STORY...
I TOLD HIM WHAT HAD HAPPENED... AND WITH EACH WORD I SPOKE, AN OPPRESSIVE WEIGHT SEEMED TO LIFT FROM MY HEART! I KNEW THAT HE UNDERSTOOD WHAT I WAS SAYING, AS I SAW HIS GENTLE, EXPRESSIVE FACE FILL WITH SYMPATHY...
THAT'S THE WAY IT IS, DOCTOR! I STILL LOVE MEDICINE... BUT I CAN NEVER TOUCH A SCALPEL AGAIN... EVEN THOUGH I KNOW IT WAS NOT MY FAULT THAT TOM DIED!
DR. BARNES, I'VE A HUNCH WE'LL FIND A PLACE FOR YOU ON THE STAFF! IT WOULDN'T PAY MUCH... BUT YOU'LL BE BUSY... AND THAT'S WHAT YOU NEED MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE!
I RECEIVED A RECOMMENDATION FROM DR. WILLIAMS, PASSED THE STATE BOARD WITH EASE, AND WAS APPOINTED TO THE STAFF OF NORTHFIELD AS ASSISTANT TO DR. THOMAS!
YES, NURSE...?
DR. BARNES, DR. THOMAS WANTS TO SEE YOU IN HIS OFFICE!
YOU SENT FOR ME, DOCTOR?
YES, A CERTAIN MATTER HAS BEEN CALLED TO MY ATTENTION--IT HAS TO DO WITH YOUR CONDUCT!
HAD SOMETHING GONE WRONG? COULD I NEVER FIND CONTENTMENT? THESE WERE THE QUESTIONS WHICH POUNDED THROUGH MY FRIGHTENED BRAIN!
I HAVE BEEN WATCHING YOU FOR WEEKS, DR. BARNES... AND I HAVE A COMPLAINT TO MAKE!
A COMPLAINT, DOCTOR? I'VE DONE MY WORK TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY!
THAT'S EXACTLY IT! ALL WORK AND NO PLAY IS GOING TO GIVE ME A DOCTOR WITH A BREAKDOWN! SO TONIGHT, DR. BARNES, I ORDER YOU TO ACCOMPANY ME TO A SQUARE DANCE AT THE MORGAN RANCH!
WELL, DOCTOR... SINCE YOU PUT IT THAT WAY... THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO BUT ACCEPT!

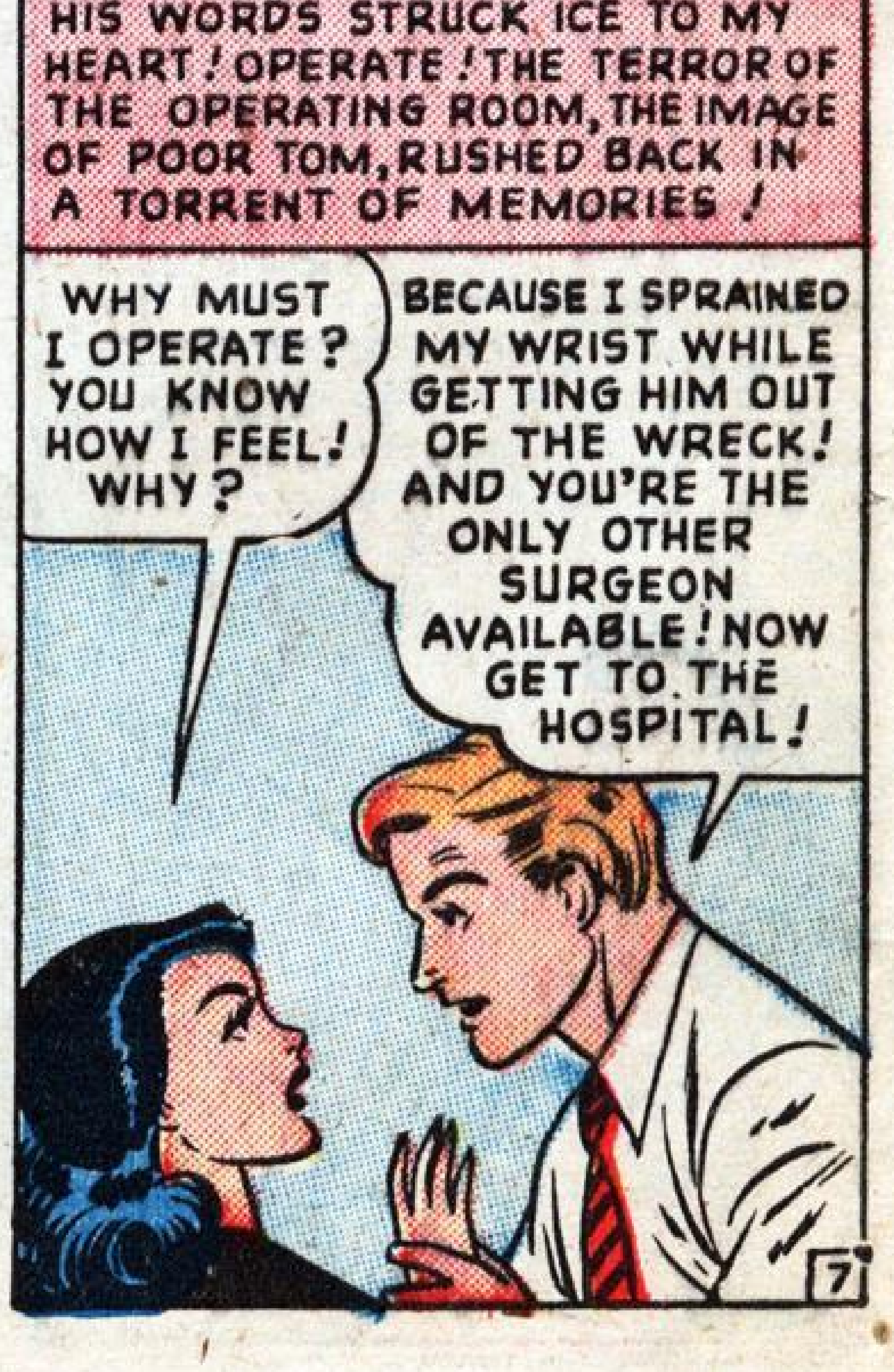

THAT NIGHT...FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THOSE AWFUL WEEKS... I FELT MYSELF RELAXING...EVEN LAUGHING...AS WE WENT THROUGH THE INTRICATE STEPS OF A WESTERN DANCE!
SWING YOUR PARTNER! SWING HER HIGH!
HAVING FUN, HELEN? YOU KNOW, I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU LAUGH BEFORE--YOU SHOULD DO IT MORE OFTEN!


BUT UGLY, GRIM REALITY FORCED ITS WAY INTO THE MERRIMENT, FREEZING OUR HEARTS, AND CONGEALING THE LAUGHTER IN OUR THROATS...FOR AS THE PARTY WAS AT ITS HEIGHT...
DOC THOMAS! QUICK! THE MIDNIGHT FLYER'S BEEN DERAILED JEST OUTSIDE OF TOWN! LOT OF PEOPLE HURT BAD!
NATE--PHONE THE HOSPITAL, TELL NURSE CRANDALL TO HAVE THE OPERATING ROOM READY! YOU, DOCTOR BARNES... COME WITH ME!


WE SPED TO THE SCENE OF THE WRECK...IT LOOKED LIKE A BATTLEFIELD! ALL ABOUT US WERE BODIES... SOME LYING PATHETICALLY STILL, AND FOR THEM WE COULD DO NOTHING...BUT THE NIGHT AIR WAS FILLED WITH CRIES OF ANGUISH...THE INJURED WHOSE LIVES WE HAD TO SAVE!
THERE'S GOING TO BE A LOT OF OPERATING TO DO TONIGHT, HELEN!
OPERATING? BUT DOCTOR, I TOLD YOU... I...CAN'T OPERATE!


WE DID WHAT WE COULD ON THE SPOT...GIVING FIRST AID... SORTING THE BADLY INJURED FROM THOSE SLIGHTLY HURT...
HEY, DOC! THERE'S A MAN TRAPPED IN A CAR...HE'S HURT BAD! HELP US GET HIM OUT!
OKAY! COME ON, HELEN!


IS HE BADLY HURT, DOCTOR?
VERY... HE'S THE MOST BADLY INJURED SO FAR! YOU'LL HAVE TO OPERATE IMMEDIATELY, HELEN! HE CAN'T BE MOVED TO THE HOSPITAL!


HIS WORDS STRUCK ICE TO MY HEART! OPERATE! THE TERROR OF THE OPERATING ROOM, THE IMAGE OF POOR TOM, RUSHED BACK IN A TORRENT OF MEMORIES!
WHY MUST I OPERATE? YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL! WHY?
BECAUSE I SPRAINED MY WRIST WHILE GETTING HIM OUT OF THE WRECK! AND YOU'RE THE ONLY OTHER SURGEON AVAILABLE! NOW GET TO THE HOSPITAL!

I HURRIED TO THE HOSPITAL AND WASHED UP... THE OVERWHELMING THOUGHT OF TOM CAME BACK TO ME...
I'M READY, NURSE-- PLEASE GIVE ME MY GOWN!
IN THE OPERATING ROOM A TREMENDOUS SURGE OF STRENGTH CAME TO ME, AN ELATION I HAD NEVER KNOWN IN MY LIFE! TOM WOULD HAVE WANTED ME TO CARRY ON! YES, THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD MAKE IT UP TO TOM!
PREPARE THE ANESTHETIC!
I OPERATED... THEN CAME ANOTHER PATIENT, AND ANOTHER... AND ONLY MY HANDS COULD ALLEVIATE THE SUFFERING! AND I KNEW THAT TOM, IF HE COULD HAVE KNOWN, WOULD HAVE BEEN GLAD...
WELL, THAT'S THE LAST ONE! LOOK... IT'S ALMOST DAWN!
I'M SO TIRED, DOCTOR... BUT I'M HAPPY!
YOU'RE A FINE SURGEON!
SOME PLACE IN THE NETHERWORLD BETWEEN THE SUBCONSCIOUS AND THE CONSCIOUS I HOVERED IN COMPLETE FATIGUE... I FELT A GENTLE HAND TOUCH MY SHOULDER, AND A VOICE CALLED MY NAME...
HELEN... BRIGHT EYES! WAKE UP!
YES, TOM... YES, DEAR... I'M AWAKE... I'M AWAKE... JUST ANOTHER MOMENT!
OH, DOCTOR... I MUST HAVE BEEN DREAMING... I... THE PATIENT IN 303!
HE'S ALL RIGHT-- I JUST LOOKED IN ON HIM! HELEN DEAR, YOU CAN RELAX! THERE'S SOMETHING I MUST ASK YOU, HELEN...
YOUR WRIST... YOU'RE USING YOUR SPRAINED WRIST!
IT NEVER WAS SPRAINED, DEAR! I'M SORRY I TRICKED YOU, BUT IT WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD GET YOU TO OPERATE!
THEN GENTLY HE FOLDED ME IN HIS ARMS AND I FELT SNUG AND SECURE, LIKE A STORM-BATTERED BIRD WHICH FINDS ITS NEST... AND AS WE EMBRACED I COULD FEEL THE SUN SHINING FULL ON MY FACE, ITS WARMTH DISPELLING MY FEARS AND THE GRAY MISTS THAT HAD BEEN SHROUDING ME... I KNEW I HAD FOUND MYSELF... FOR I HAD FOUND LOVE!
HARVEY...
DON'T SAY IT, DARLING... JUST KISS ME!
THE END

WAS MY LOVE FOR DAVE THE REAL THING, OR WERE WE BOTH THE VICTIMS OF MY CLEVERLY PLANNED—

"MAN TRAP!"

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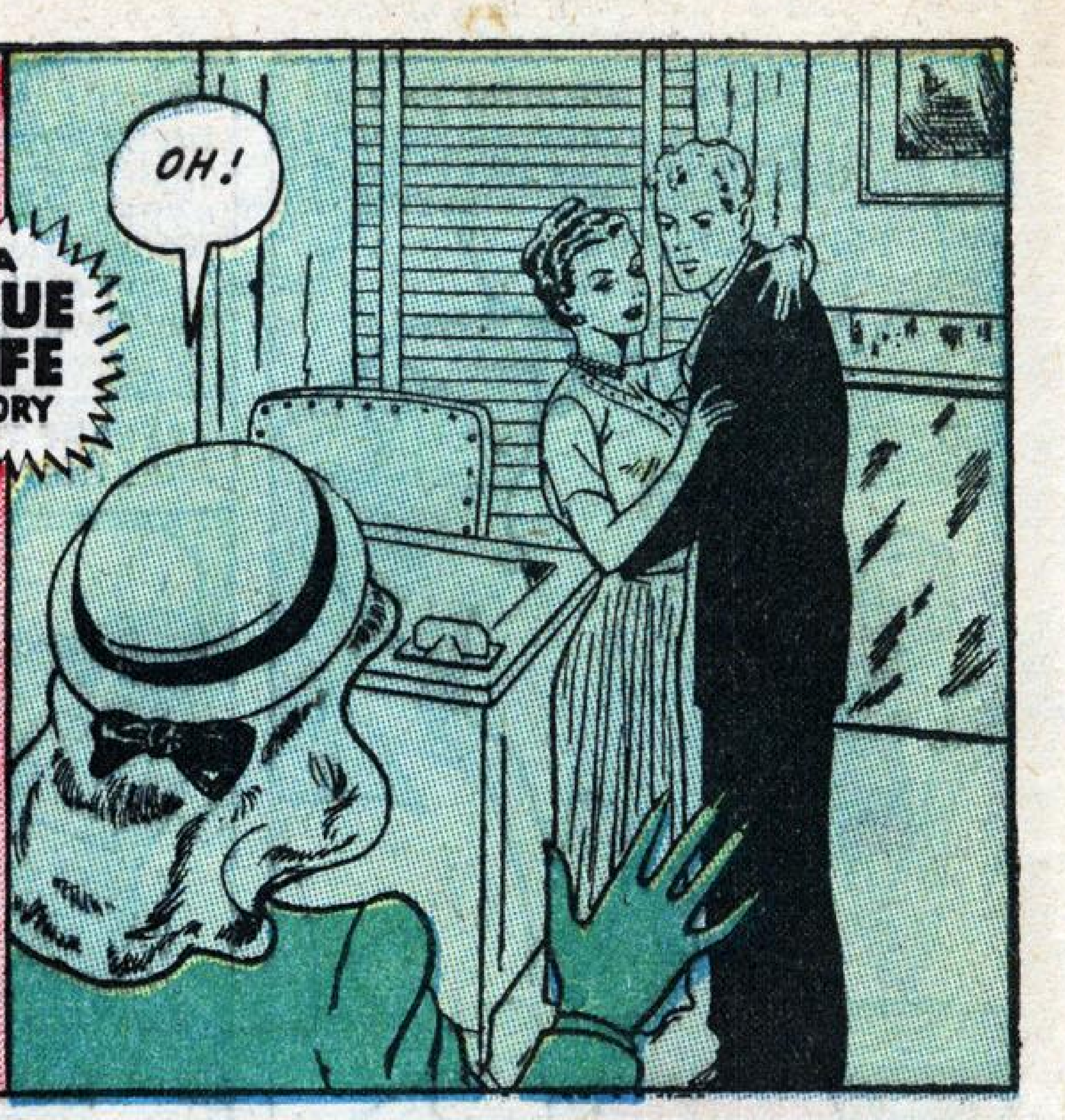
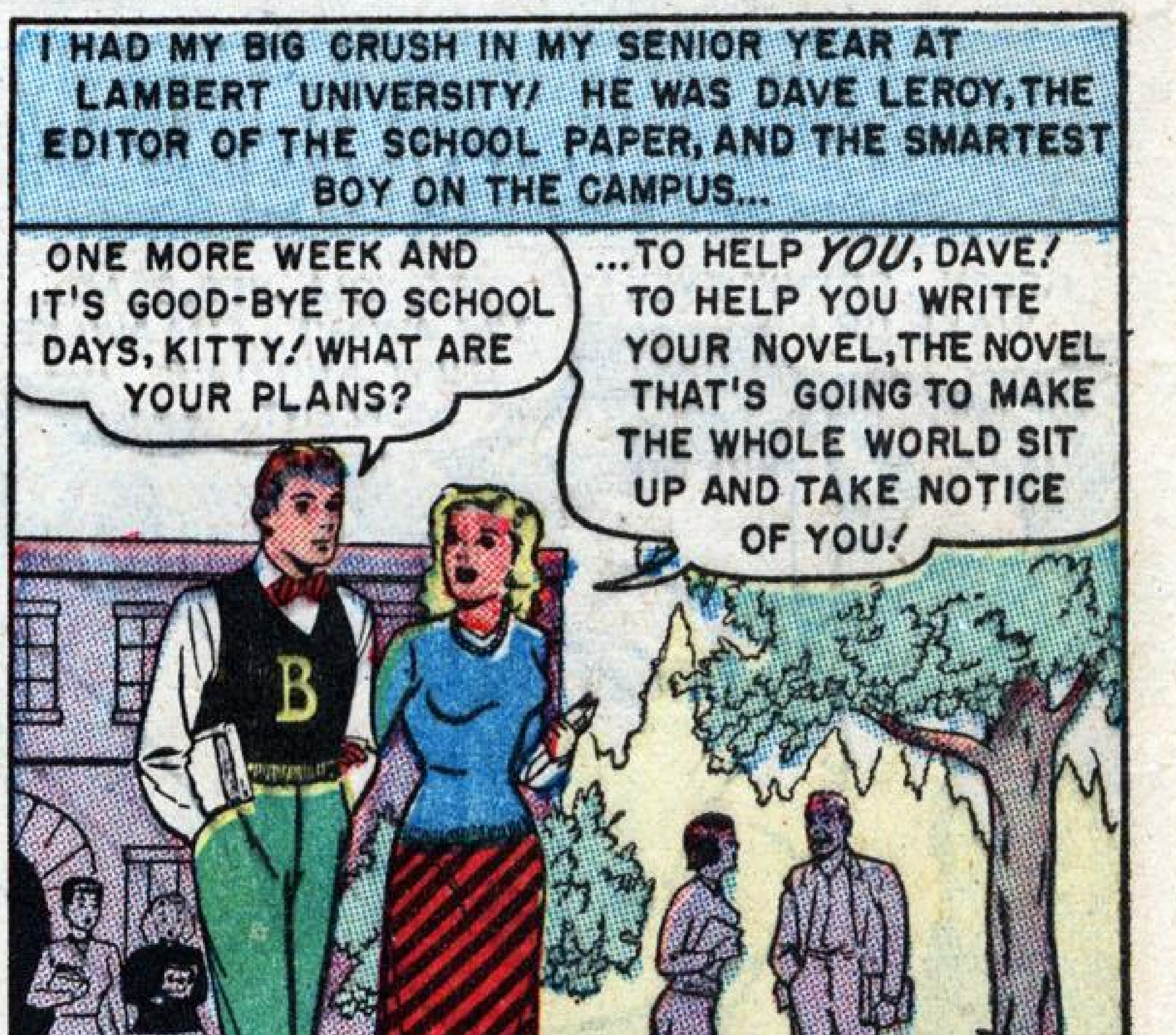
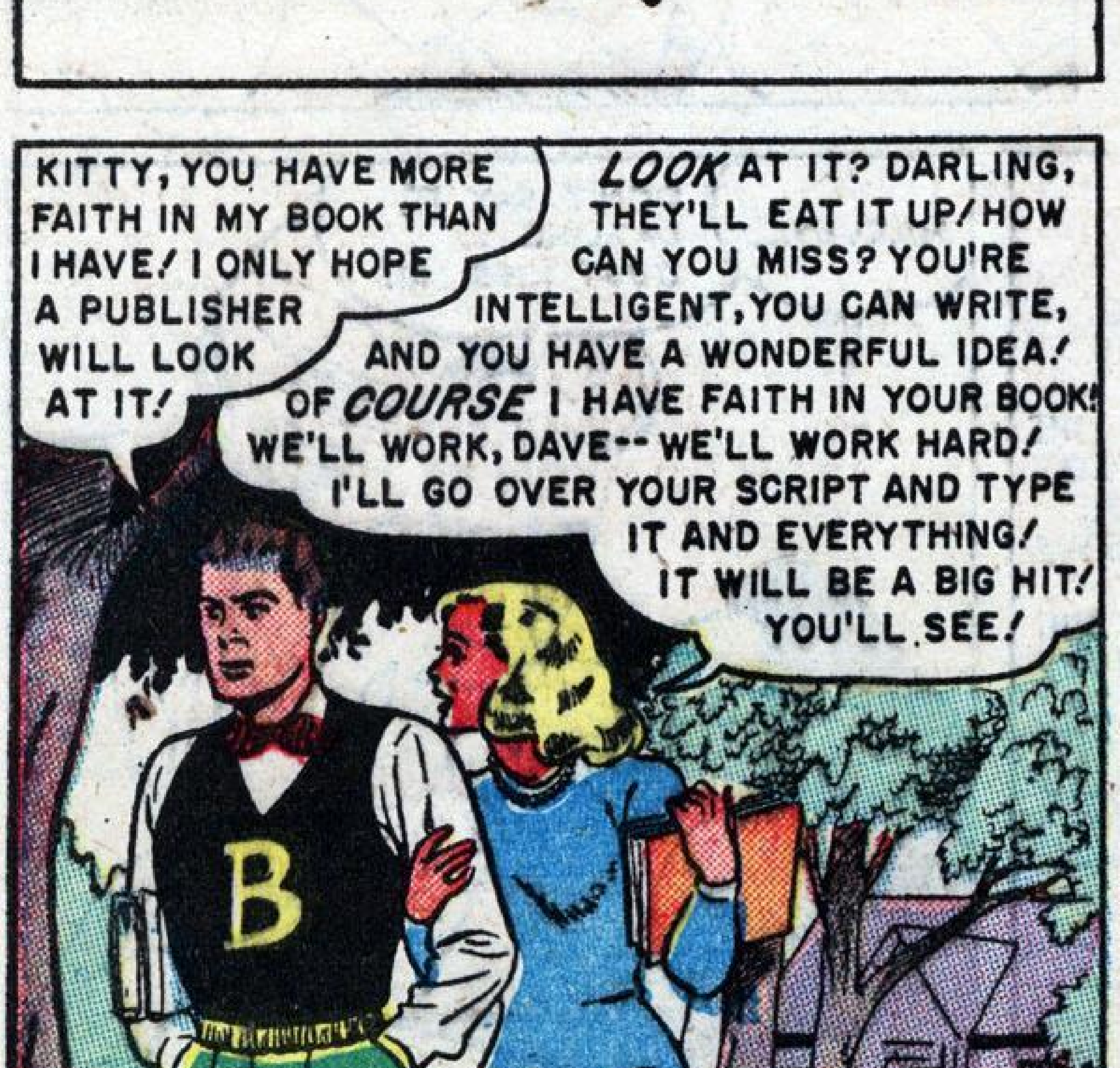
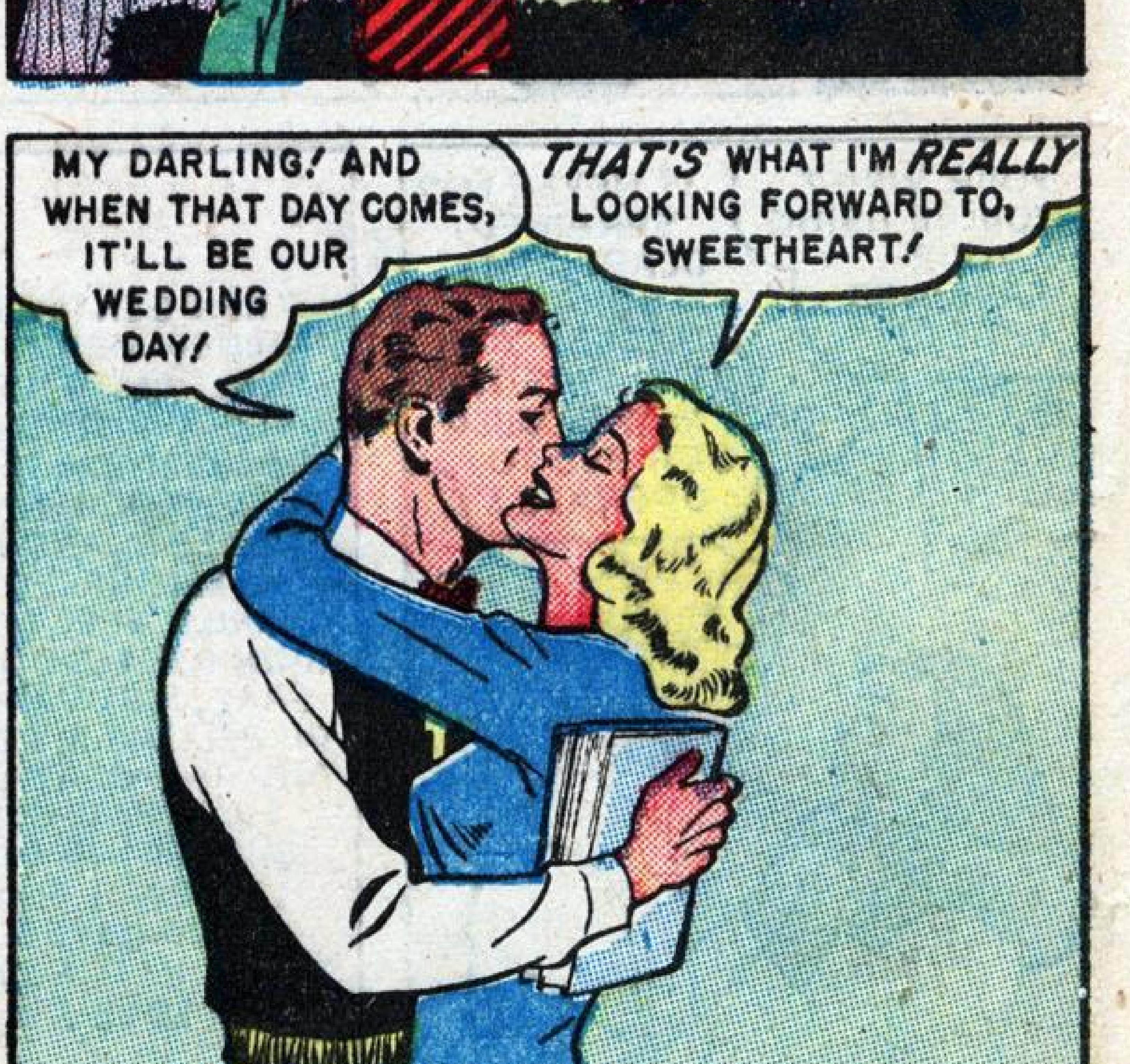

OH!
A TRUE LIFE STORY

To the Editor of "My Romance"--
Dear Sir:
What is a broken heart? Poets have written about it--songs are sung--novels are published--and yet--how can one truly describe the pain and agony that is a broken heart? How can one put into words something that wrenches at your very soul when all your dreams, your ideals, and your worlds explode before your very eyes--leaving you nothingness? This is my story--the story of the girl who once was--
Kitty Thompson

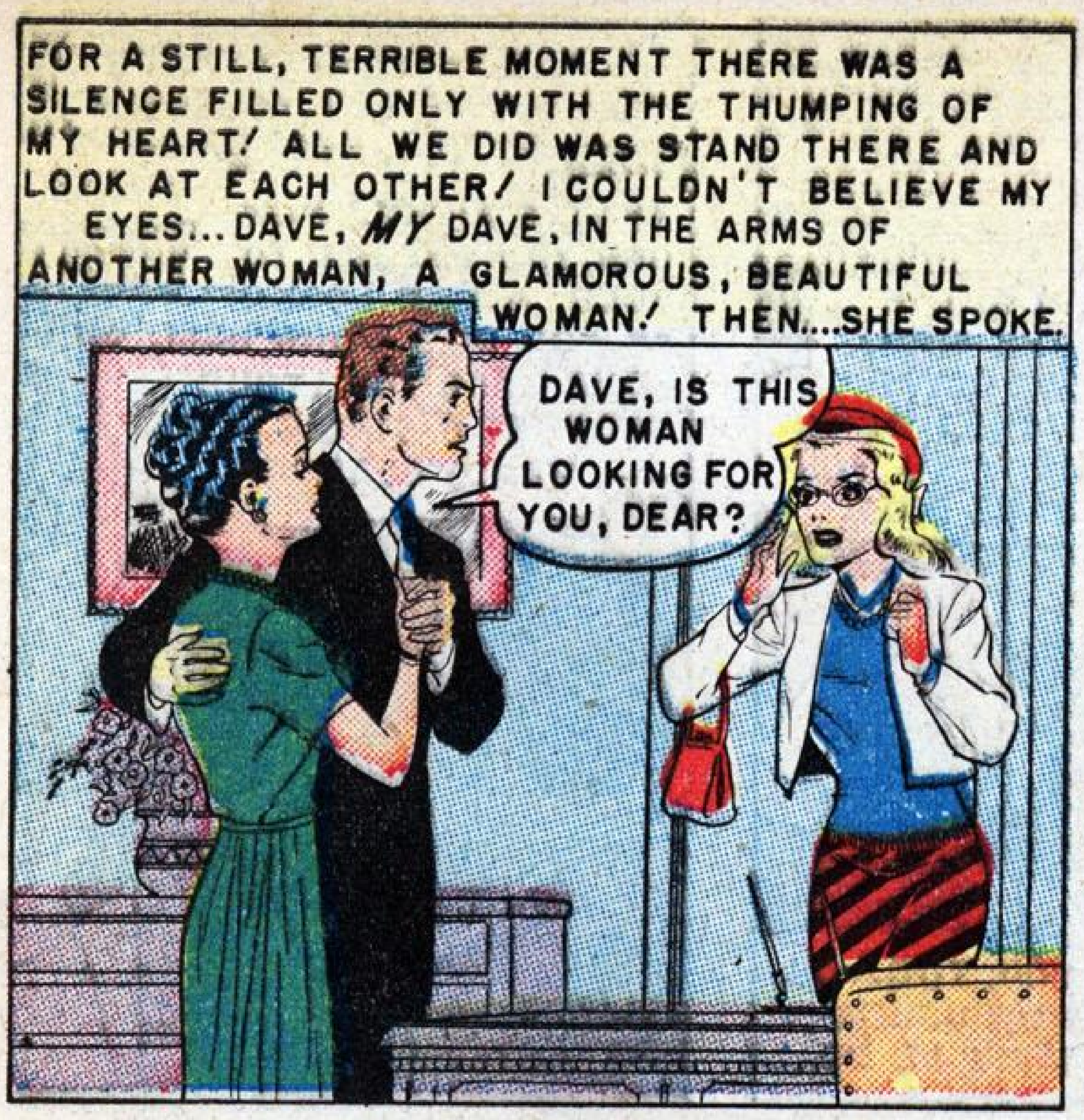

I HAD MY BIG CRUSH IN MY SENIOR YEAR AT LAMBERT UNIVERSITY! HE WAS DAVE LEROY, THE EDITOR OF THE SCHOOL PAPER, AND THE SMARTEST BOY ON THE CAMPUS...
ONE MORE WEEK AND IT'S GOOD-BYE TO SCHOOL DAYS, KITTY! WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS?
...TO HELP *YOU*, DAVE! TO HELP YOU WRITE YOUR NOVEL, THE NOVEL THAT'S GOING TO MAKE THE WHOLE WORLD SIT UP AND TAKE NOTICE OF YOU!
B

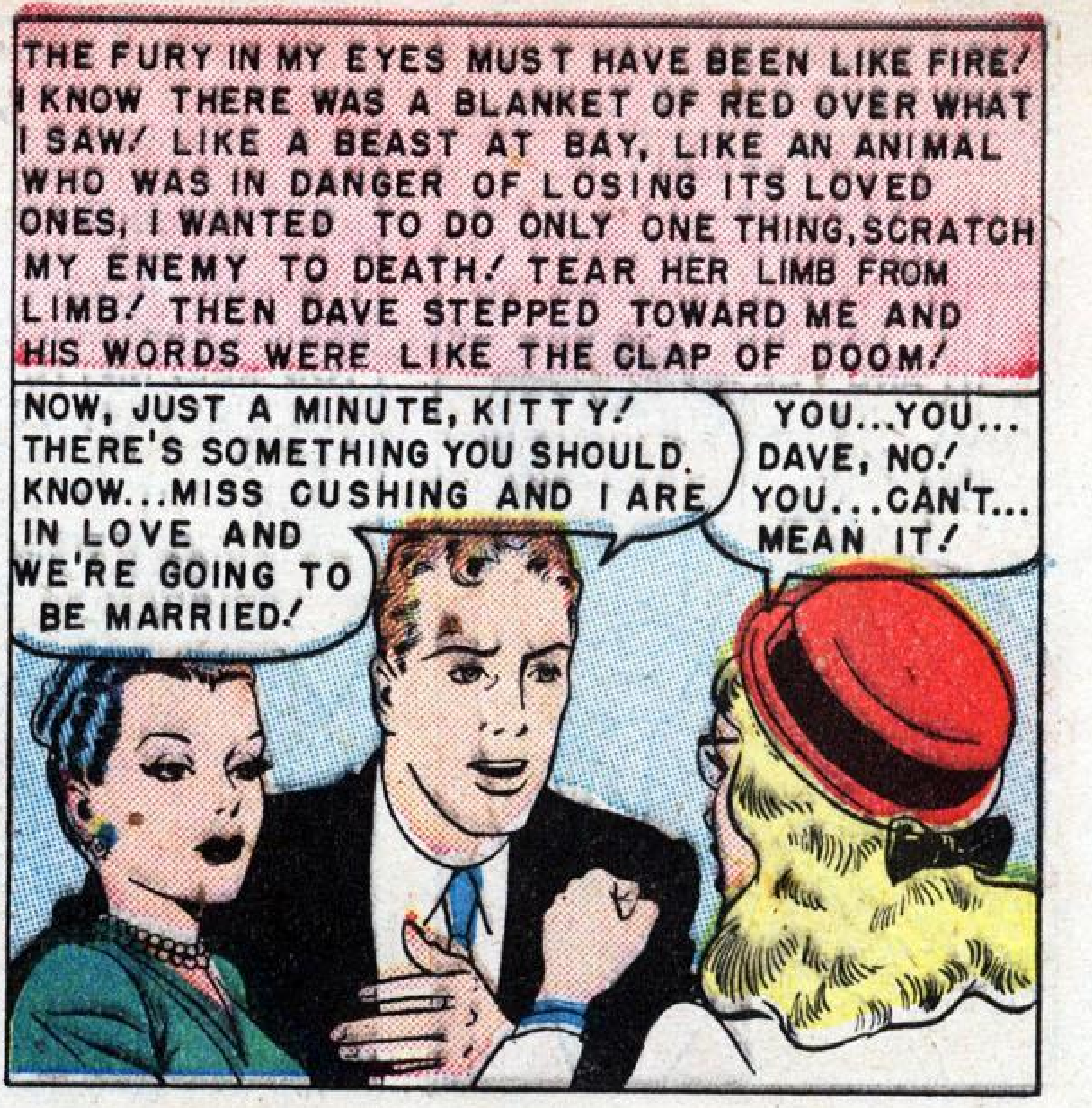

KITTY, YOU HAVE MORE FAITH IN MY BOOK THAN I HAVE! I ONLY HOPE A PUBLISHER WILL LOOK AT IT!
LOOK AT IT? DARLING, THEY'LL EAT IT UP! HOW CAN YOU MISS? YOU'RE INTELLIGENT, YOU CAN WRITE, AND YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL IDEA! OF *COURSE* I HAVE FAITH IN YOUR BOOK! WE'LL WORK, DAVE-- WE'LL WORK HARD! I'LL GO OVER YOUR SCRIPT AND TYPE IT AND EVERYTHING! IT WILL BE A BIG HIT! YOU'LL SEE!
B

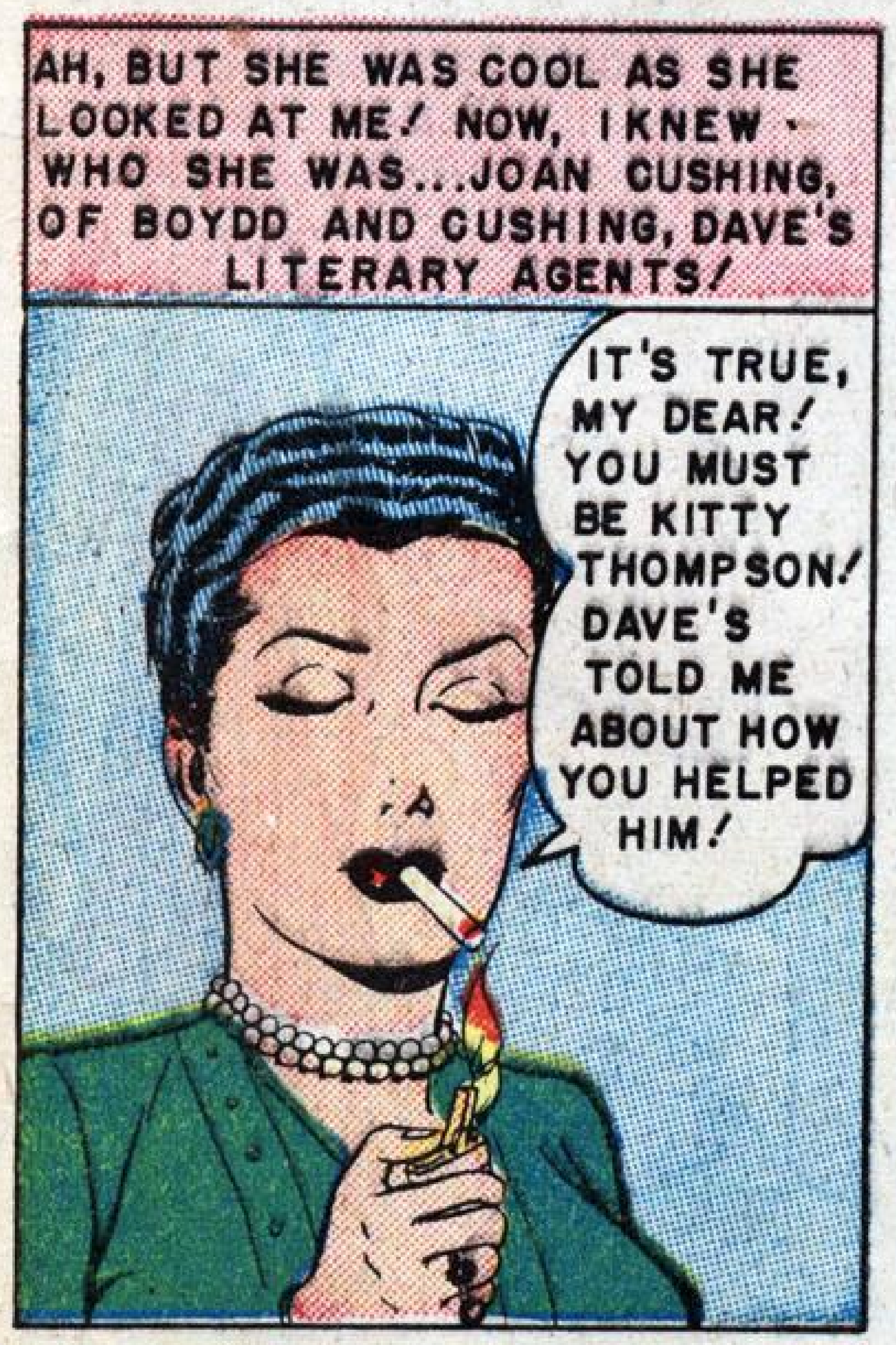

MY DARLING! AND WHEN THAT DAY COMES, IT'LL BE OUR WEDDING DAY!
THAT'S WHAT I'M *REALLY* LOOKING FORWARD TO, SWEETHEART!

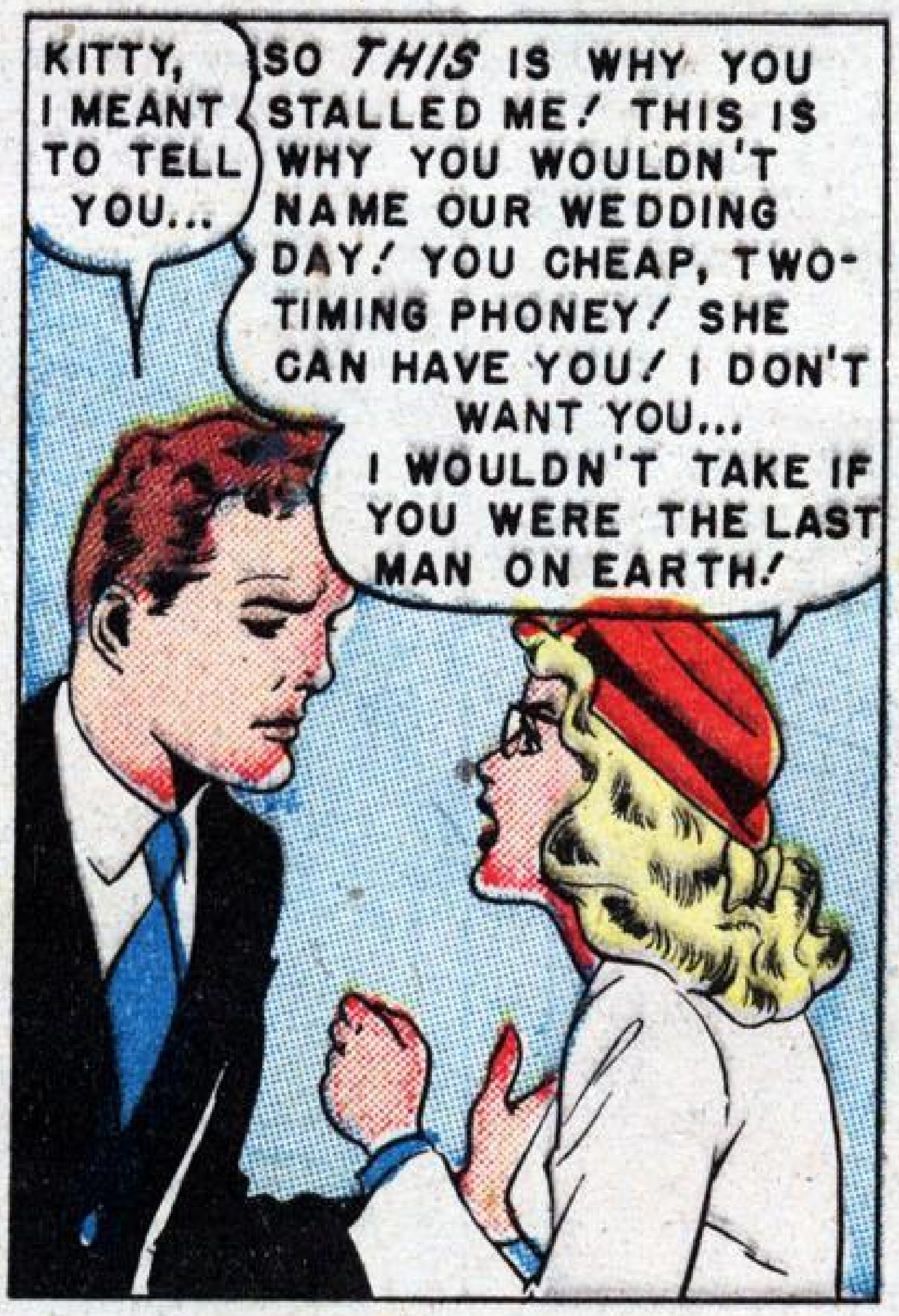
TIME PASSED, AND DAVE AND I WORKED ON HIS BOOK... HE AND I LIVED NEXT DOOR TO EACH OTHER, AND WE SPENT EVERY MOMENT WE COULD TOGETHER...
HOW'S THE GREAT AMERICAN NOVEL COMING ALONG, KIDS?
OH, TERRIBLE, MR. THOMPSON! EVERYTHING'S GOING WRONG! IT'S NO USE!
PAY NO ATTENTION TO HIM, DAD! HE'S JUST A GENIUS! DOESN'T KNOW WHAT'S GOOD! THE BOOK IS WONDERFUL!
IF IT IS, I'LL HAVE *YOU* TO THANK, KITTY! YOU'RE MY INSPIRATION-- MY EVERYTHING!
DARLING... THIS BOOK MEANS OUR WEDDING! THAT'S ONE REASON IT'S *GOT* TO BE A SUCCESS!
OH...OH! THIS IS NO PLACE FOR AN OLD CODGER LIKE ME!
YES, I HAD GIVEN EVERYTHING UP FOR DAVE AND HIS NOVEL... ALL MY FRIENDS... MY SOCIAL LIFE... EVERYTHING!
HEY, KITTY, THE GANG'S GOING OUT TO LONG NECK ON A PICNIC! HOW ABOUT IT?
NO CAN DO, DORIS! I'VE GOT TO TYPE THE LAST CHAPTER OF DAVE'S NOVEL...
... I EVEN NEGLECTED MY LOOKS!
LOOK, HONEY, I DON'T LIKE TO BUTT IN, BUT AREN'T YOU LETTING YOURSELF GET A LITTLE... ER... SLOPPY? YOU'VE DEVOTED SO MUCH TIME TO THAT BOOK, YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT GLAMOR! WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU HAD A FACIAL OR A PERMANENT?
OH, DAD, WHO'S GOT TIME FOR THINGS LIKE THAT? DAVE LOVES ME AS I AM! LATER I'LL TAKE CARE OF MYSELF...
WELL, *EVERY* MAN LIKES GLAMOR IN HIS WOMAN, KITTY! I HOPE YOU'RE NOT TAKING DAVE TOO MUCH FOR GRANTED! I WOULDN'T LIKE TO SEE MY BABY HURT--WITH A BROKEN HEART!
BROKEN HEART... *ME?* DAD, YOU'RE AN OLD WORRY-WART! DAVE AND I UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER PERFECTLY! NOTHING WILL HAPPEN TO BREAK US UP!
AT LAST THE BOOK WAS FINISHED! WE WRAPPED IT UP CAREFULLY AND LOVINGLY, AND SENT IT TO THE LITERARY AGENCY OF BOYDD AND CUSHING! AND WE WAITED, OUR HEARTS BEATING TIME WITH THE CLOCK! THEN, TWO WEEKS LATER, DAVE CAME RUSHING OVER TO OUR HOUSE...!
KITTY! KITTY! THEY CALLED ME! THEY LIKE MY BOOK! THEY WANT TO SEE ME RIGHT AWAY! OH, KITTY!
OH, DAVE! HOW WONDERFUL! I *KNEW* THEY'D LIKE IT! OH, DARLING, OUR DREAMS HAVE COME TRUE! I'M HAPPY FOR YOU!
B
...FOR *US!* KITTY, THIS MEANS WE'LL GET MARRIED SOON! YOUR NAME SHOULD HAVE BEEN ON THAT BOOK, TOO!
DARLING, OUR NAMES WILL BE TOGETHER ON OUR MARRIAGE LICENSE! THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME! MMM!

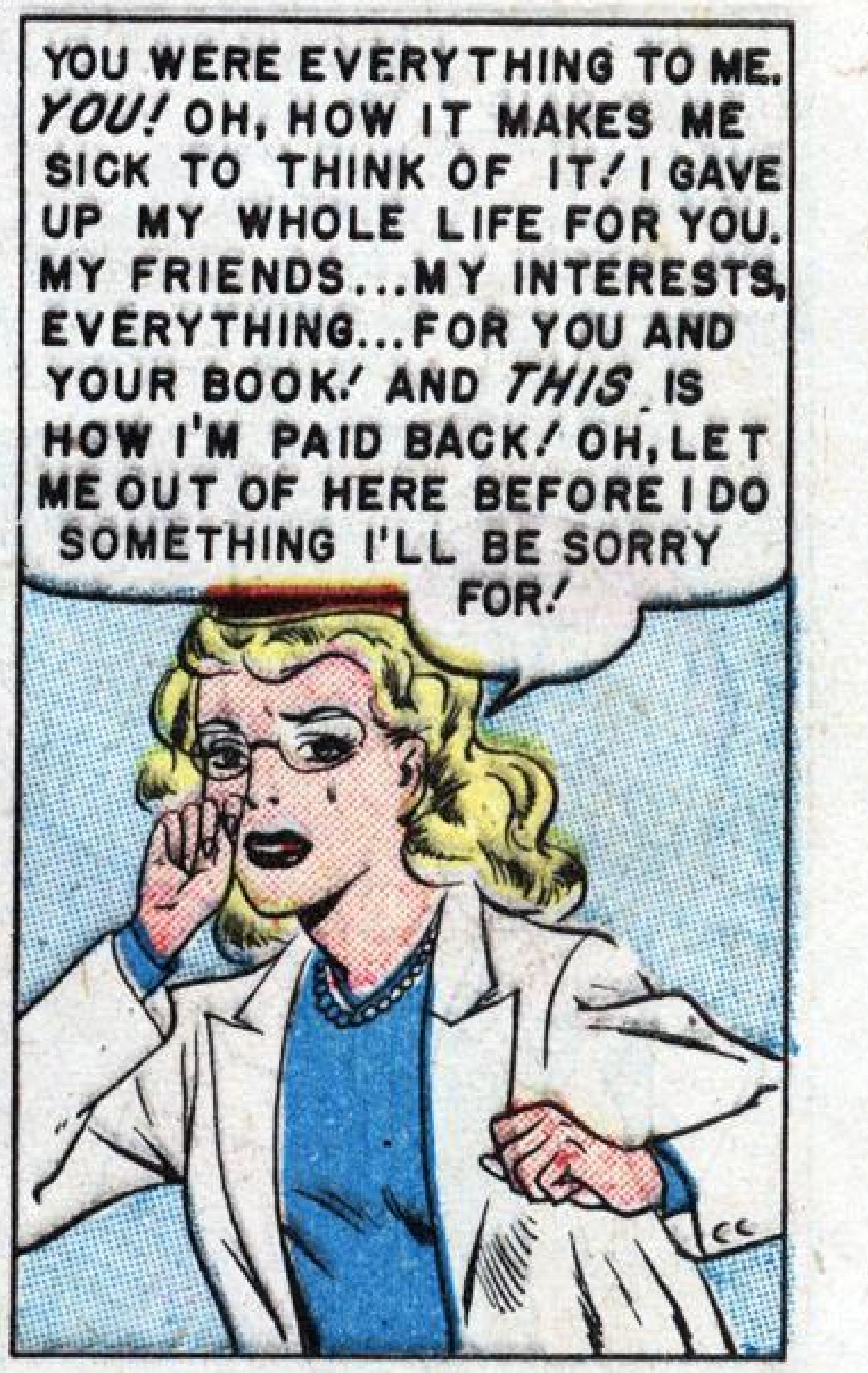
HOW CAN I DESCRIBE TO YOU THE THRILL THAT WAS MINE? THE FIRM OF BOYDD AND CUSHING PLACED HIS NOVEL WITH ONE OF THE BIGGEST PUBLISHERS! FROM NOW ON, EVERYTHING WAS GOING TO BE ROSY!
DARLING, YOUR BOOK IS GOING TO BE PUBLISHED IN FOUR MONTHS! LET'S MAKE THAT OUR WEDDING DAY, SHALL WE?
WE'LL SEE, DEAR! WE'LL SEE WHAT HAPPENS!
B
WHAT? DAVE, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? YOU.. YOU... DON'T SOUND LIKE YOURSELF! I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
IT'S SIMPLE, DEAR! THERE'S STILL TOO MUCH WORK INVOLVED WITH THE BOOK TO THINK OF MARRIAGE! I'VE GOT TO KEEP MY MIND CLEAR TO CONCENTRATE! THERE'LL BE REVIEWS, INTERVIEWS, AND ALL THAT!
B
DAVE, TELL ME SOMETHING... HAVE I BEEN TAKING YOU TOO MUCH FOR GRANTED? HAVE I BEEN TOO SURE OF YOU?
OH, FOR PETE'S SAKE, KITTY! STOP ACTING SO MUCH LIKE A... A WIFE, WILL YOU?
YOU STILL HAVEN'T ANSWERED MY QUESTION... AND YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME WHEN WE'RE GETTING MARRIED!
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY UNREASONABLE! AND I'VE GOT WORK TO DO. BOYDD AND CUSHING HAVE ARRANGED AN INTERVIEW WITH SOME CRITICS AT THEIR OFFICE! I CAN'T WASTE TIME HERE TALKING TO YOU! GOOD-BYE!
B
IT WAS OUR FIRST QUARREL AND IT LEFT ME LIMP WITH ANGER! THEN I CALMED DOWN AND THOUGHT EVERYTHING OVER... AND SOON CAME TO A CONCLUSION...
OH DEAR! I DID ACT UNREASONABLE! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME ANYWAY? ALL THE WORK ON THE BOOK HAS MADE MY NERVES RAGGED! I DID ACT LIKE A SHREW TOWARD POOR DAVE! I KNOW WHAT I'LL DO! I'LL GO TO BOYDD AND CUSHING'S OFFICE AND APOLOGIZE TO DAVE! WE SHOULDN'T QUARREL LIKE THIS... NOT AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN TO EACH OTHER!
I HAD NEVER BEEN TO THE AGENCY OFFICE BEFORE, BUT I KNEW WHERE IT WAS! MY HEART WAS DOING JOYOUS NIP-UPS AS I DASHED ACROSS TOWN...
DAVE IS RIGHT! THE BOOK DOES COME FIRST! WE'LL ARRANGE OUR WEDDING AFTER ALL THE WORK ON IT IS DONE! FORGIVE ME! FORGIVE ME... MY DARLING!
I COULD HARDLY WAIT TO SEE HIM AGAIN... AND I COULDN'T CONTAIN MYSELF AS I OPENED THE DOOR!
DAVE! OH, DAVE!
YDD AND CUSHING
ERARY AGENTS
OH!

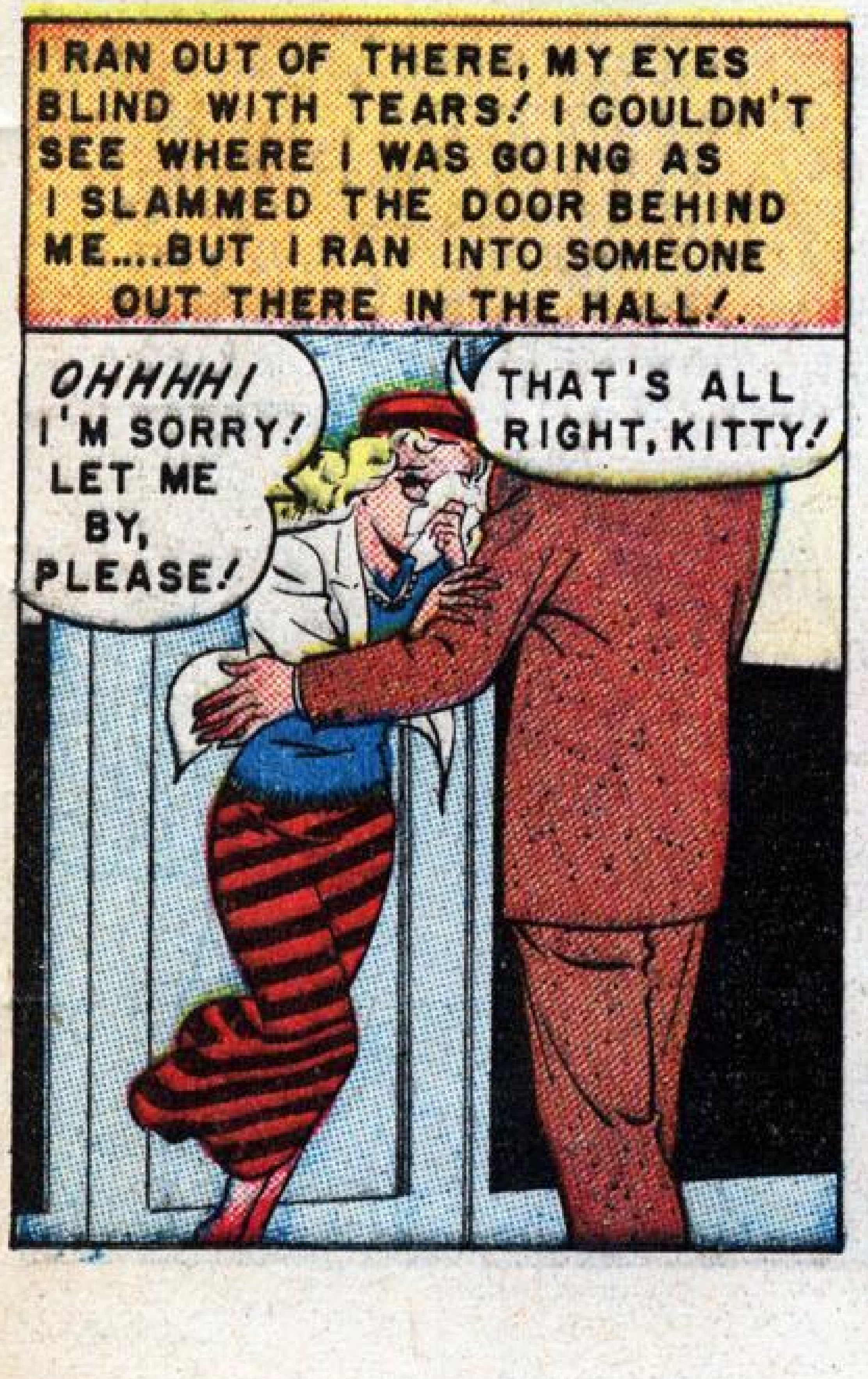

FOR A STILL, TERRIBLE MOMENT THERE WAS A SILENCE FILLED ONLY WITH THE THUMPING OF MY HEART! ALL WE DID WAS STAND THERE AND LOOK AT EACH OTHER! I COULDN'T BELIEVE MY EYES... DAVE, *MY* DAVE, IN THE ARMS OF ANOTHER WOMAN, A GLAMOROUS, BEAUTIFUL WOMAN! THEN....SHE SPOKE.
DAVE, IS THIS WOMAN LOOKING FOR YOU, DEAR?

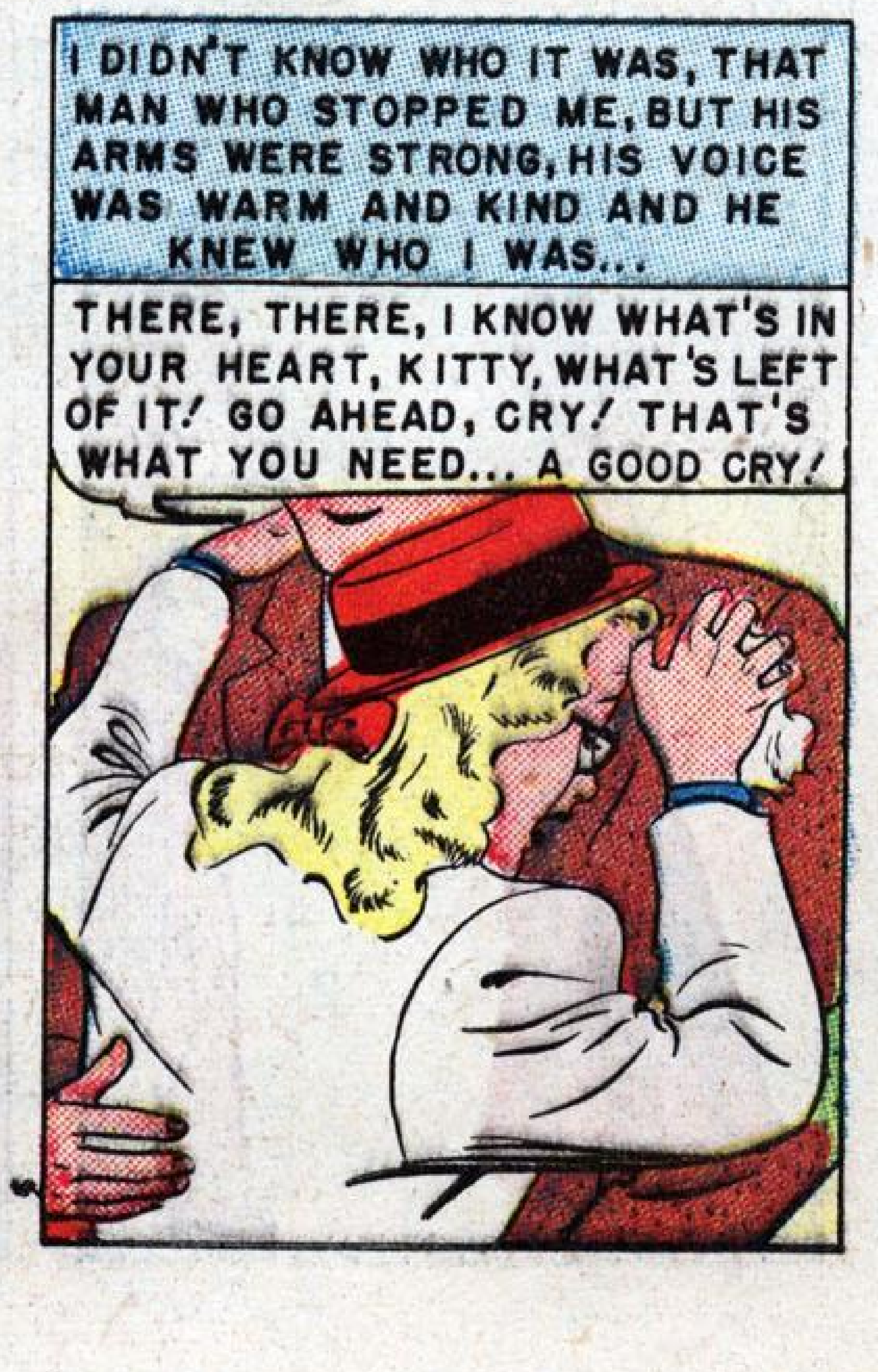

THE FURY IN MY EYES MUST HAVE BEEN LIKE FIRE! I KNOW THERE WAS A BLANKET OF RED OVER WHAT I SAW! LIKE A BEAST AT BAY, LIKE AN ANIMAL WHO WAS IN DANGER OF LOSING ITS LOVED ONES, I WANTED TO DO ONLY ONE THING, SCRATCH MY ENEMY TO DEATH! TEAR HER LIMB FROM LIMB! THEN DAVE STEPPED TOWARD ME AND HIS WORDS WERE LIKE THE CLAP OF DOOM!
NOW, JUST A MINUTE, KITTY! THERE'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW...MISS CUSHING AND I ARE IN LOVE AND WE'RE GOING TO BE MARRIED!
YOU...YOU... DAVE, NO! YOU...CAN'T... MEAN IT!

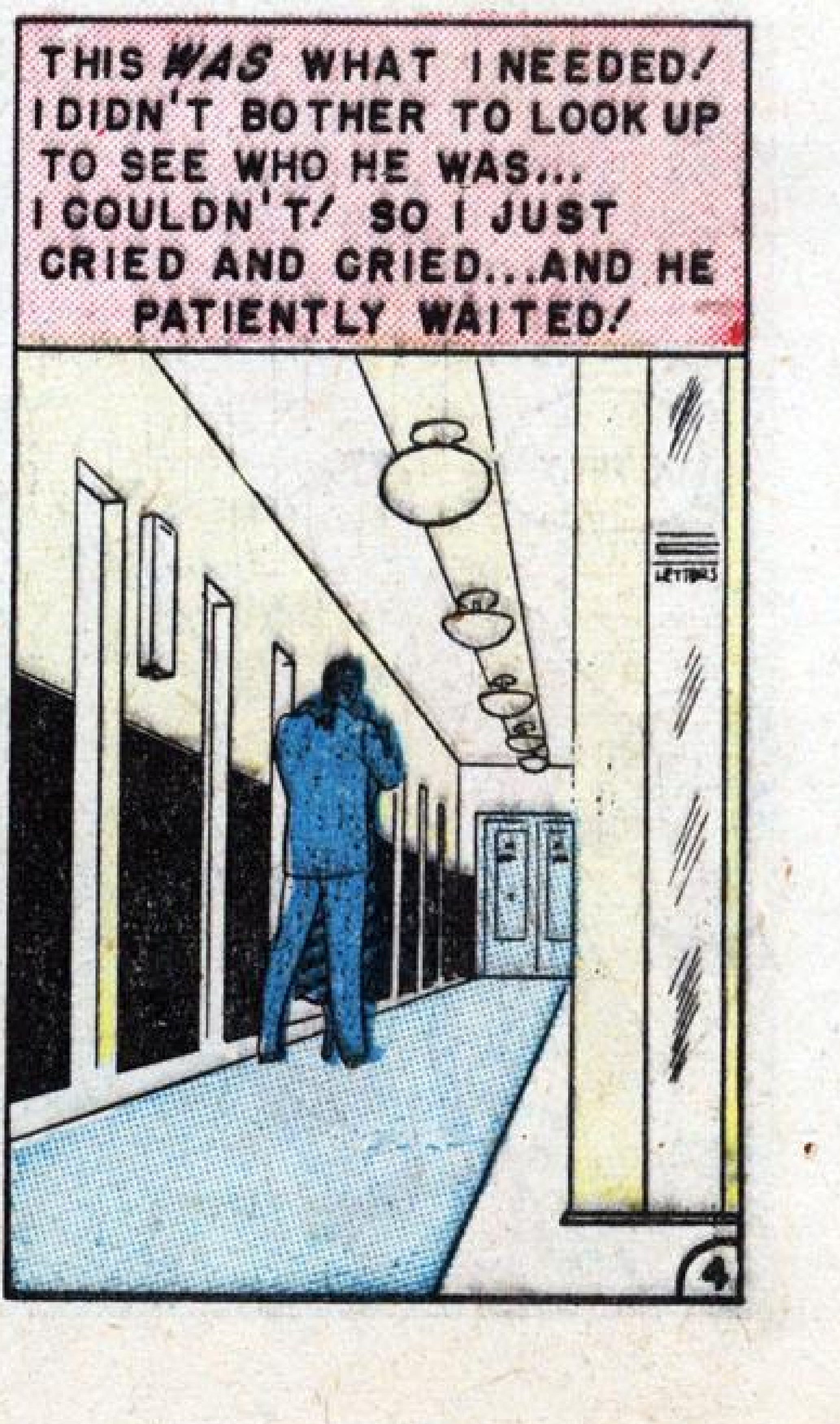

AH, BUT SHE WAS COOL AS SHE LOOKED AT ME! NOW, I KNEW WHO SHE WAS...JOAN CUSHING, OF BOYDD AND CUSHING, DAVE'S LITERARY AGENTS!
IT'S TRUE, MY DEAR! YOU MUST BE KITTY THOMPSON! DAVE'S TOLD ME ABOUT HOW YOU HELPED HIM!

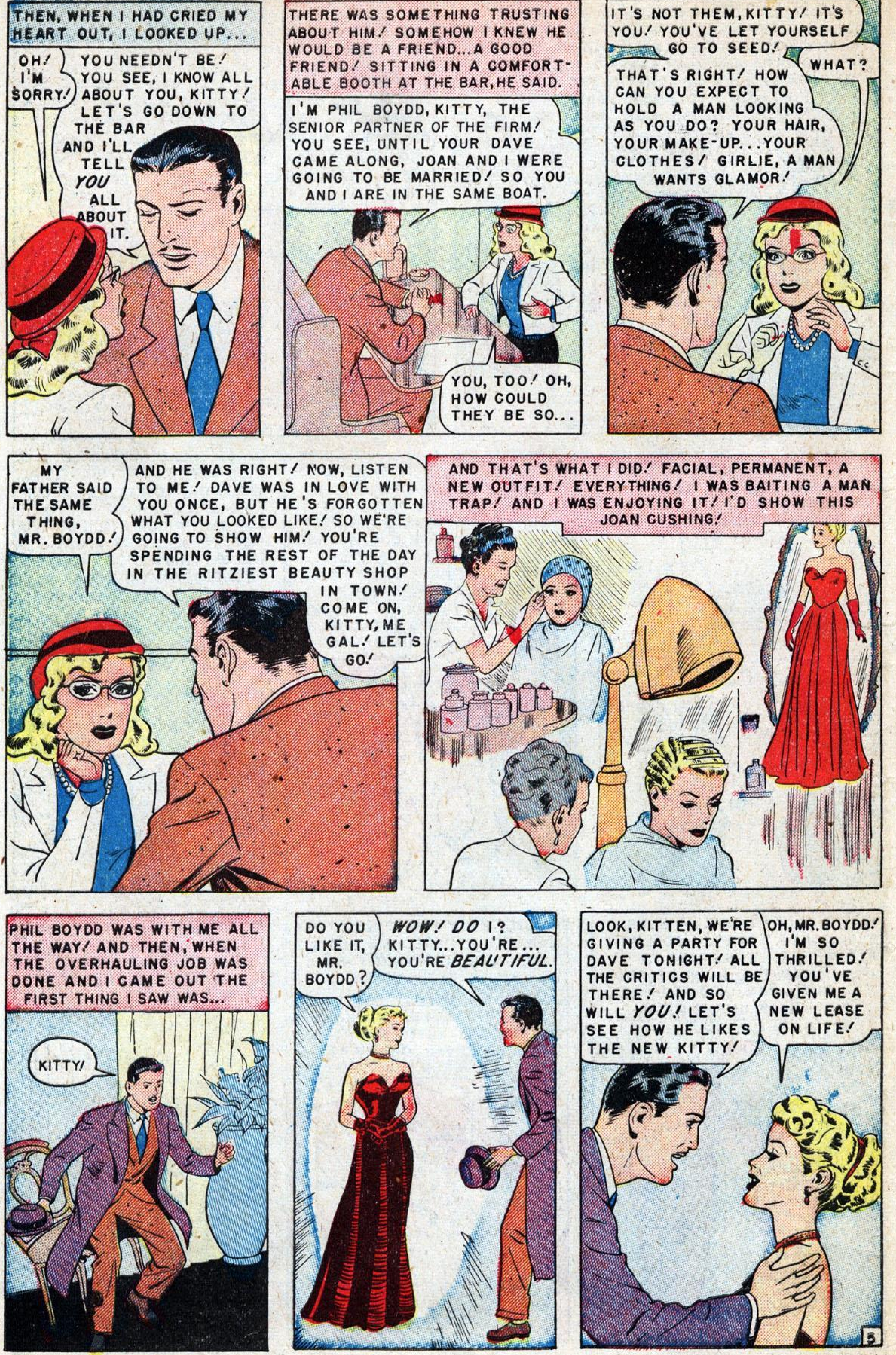

KITTY, I MEANT TO TELL YOU...
SO *THIS* IS WHY YOU STALLED ME! THIS IS WHY YOU WOULDN'T NAME OUR WEDDING DAY! YOU CHEAP, TWO-TIMING PHONEY! SHE CAN HAVE YOU! I DON'T WANT YOU... I WOULDN'T TAKE IF YOU WERE THE LAST MAN ON EARTH!


YOU WERE EVERYTHING TO ME. *YOU!* OH, HOW IT MAKES ME SICK TO THINK OF IT! I GAVE UP MY WHOLE LIFE FOR YOU. MY FRIENDS...MY INTERESTS, EVERYTHING...FOR YOU AND YOUR BOOK! AND *THIS* IS HOW I'M PAID BACK! OH, LET ME OUT OF HERE BEFORE I DO SOMETHING I'LL BE SORRY FOR!

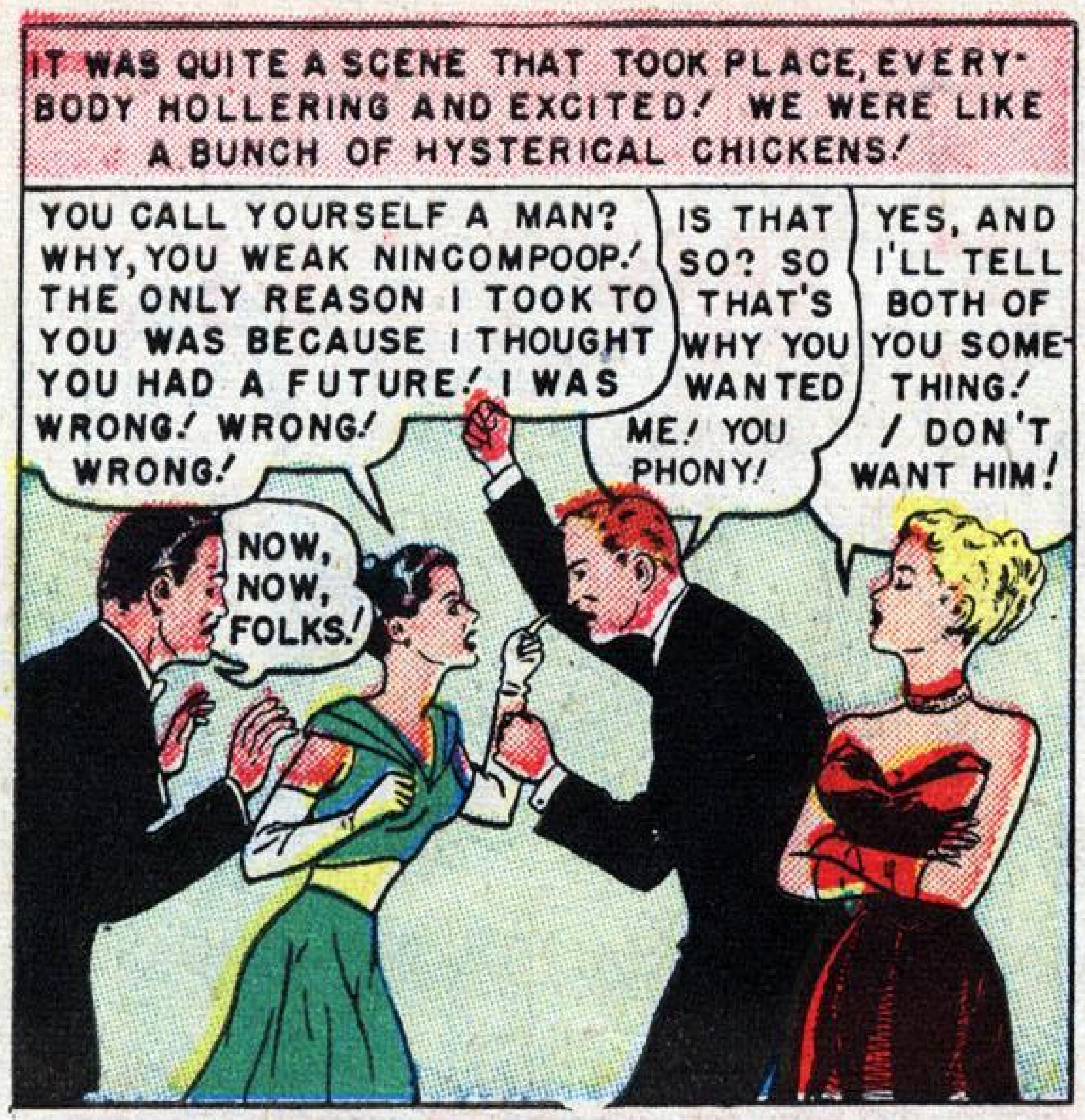

I RAN OUT OF THERE, MY EYES BLIND WITH TEARS! I COULDN'T SEE WHERE I WAS GOING AS I SLAMMED THE DOOR BEHIND ME....BUT I RAN INTO SOMEONE OUT THERE IN THE HALL!.
OHHHH! I'M SORRY! LET ME BY, PLEASE!
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, KITTY!

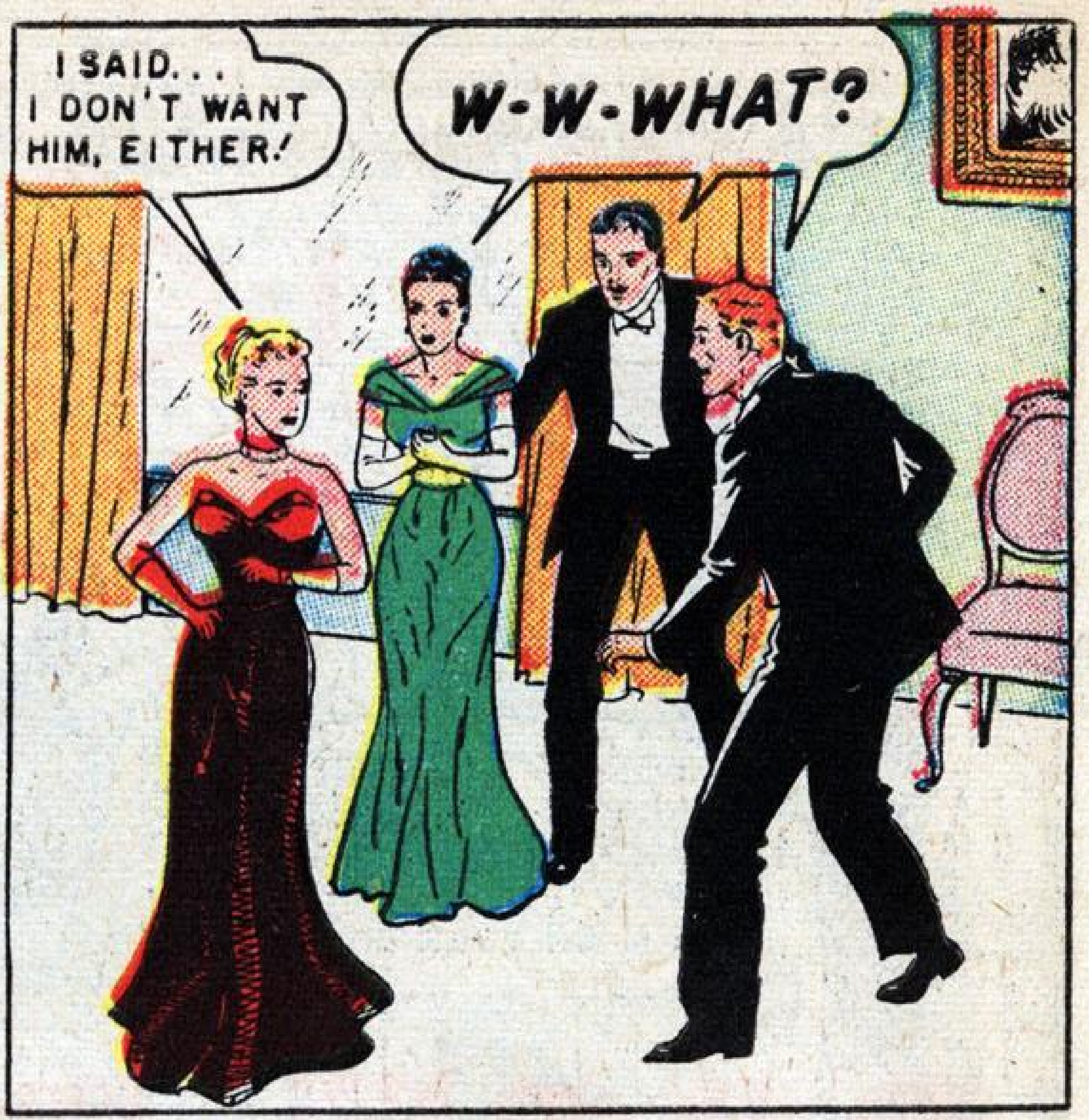

I DIDN'T KNOW WHO IT WAS, THAT MAN WHO STOPPED ME, BUT HIS ARMS WERE STRONG, HIS VOICE WAS WARM AND KIND AND HE KNEW WHO I WAS...
THERE, THERE, I KNOW WHAT'S IN YOUR HEART, KITTY, WHAT'S LEFT OF IT! GO AHEAD, CRY! THAT'S WHAT YOU NEED... A GOOD CRY!

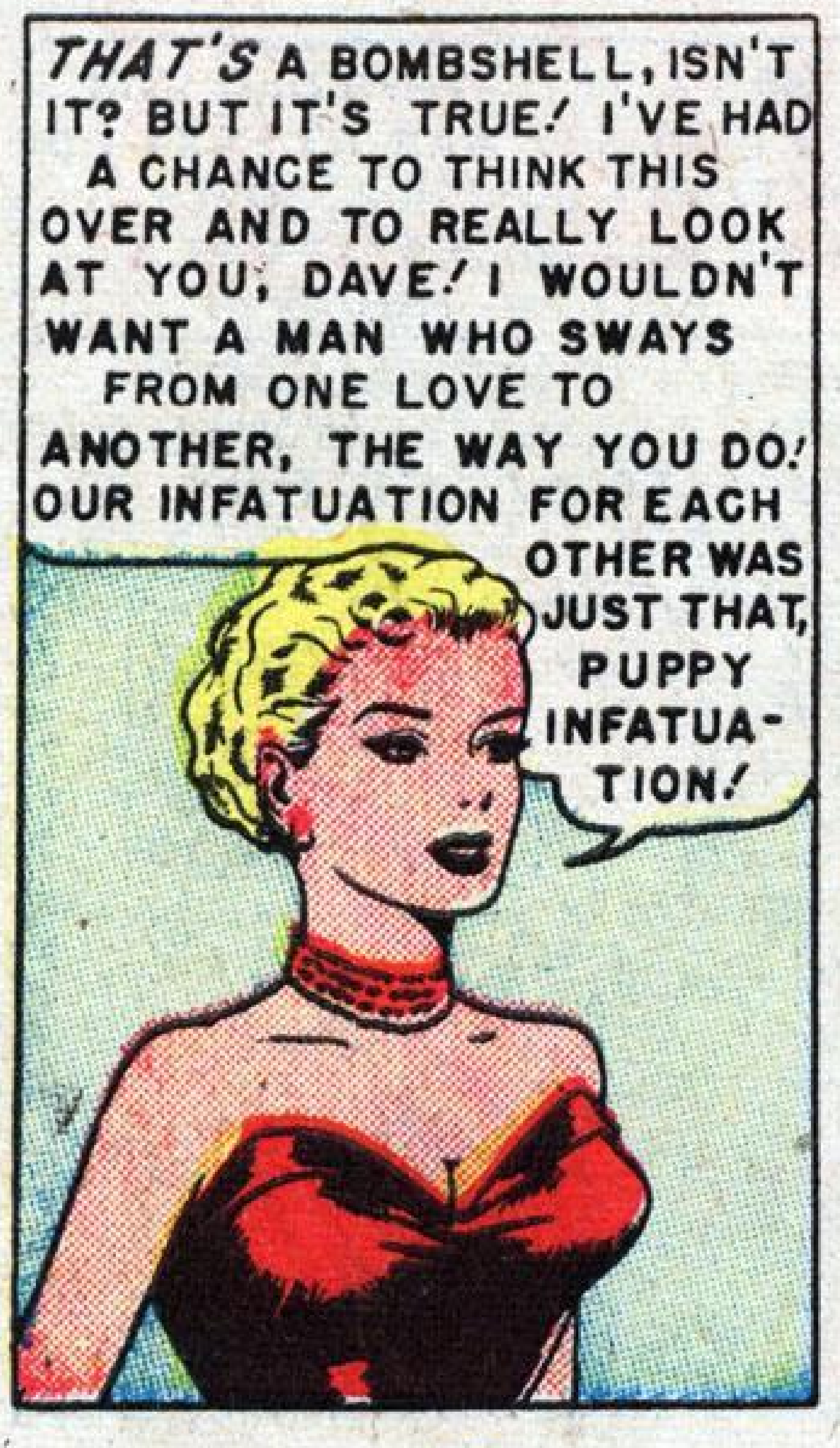

THIS *WAS* WHAT I NEEDED! I DIDN'T BOTHER TO LOOK UP TO SEE WHO HE WAS... I COULDN'T! SO I JUST CRIED AND CRIED...AND HE PATIENTLY WAITED!

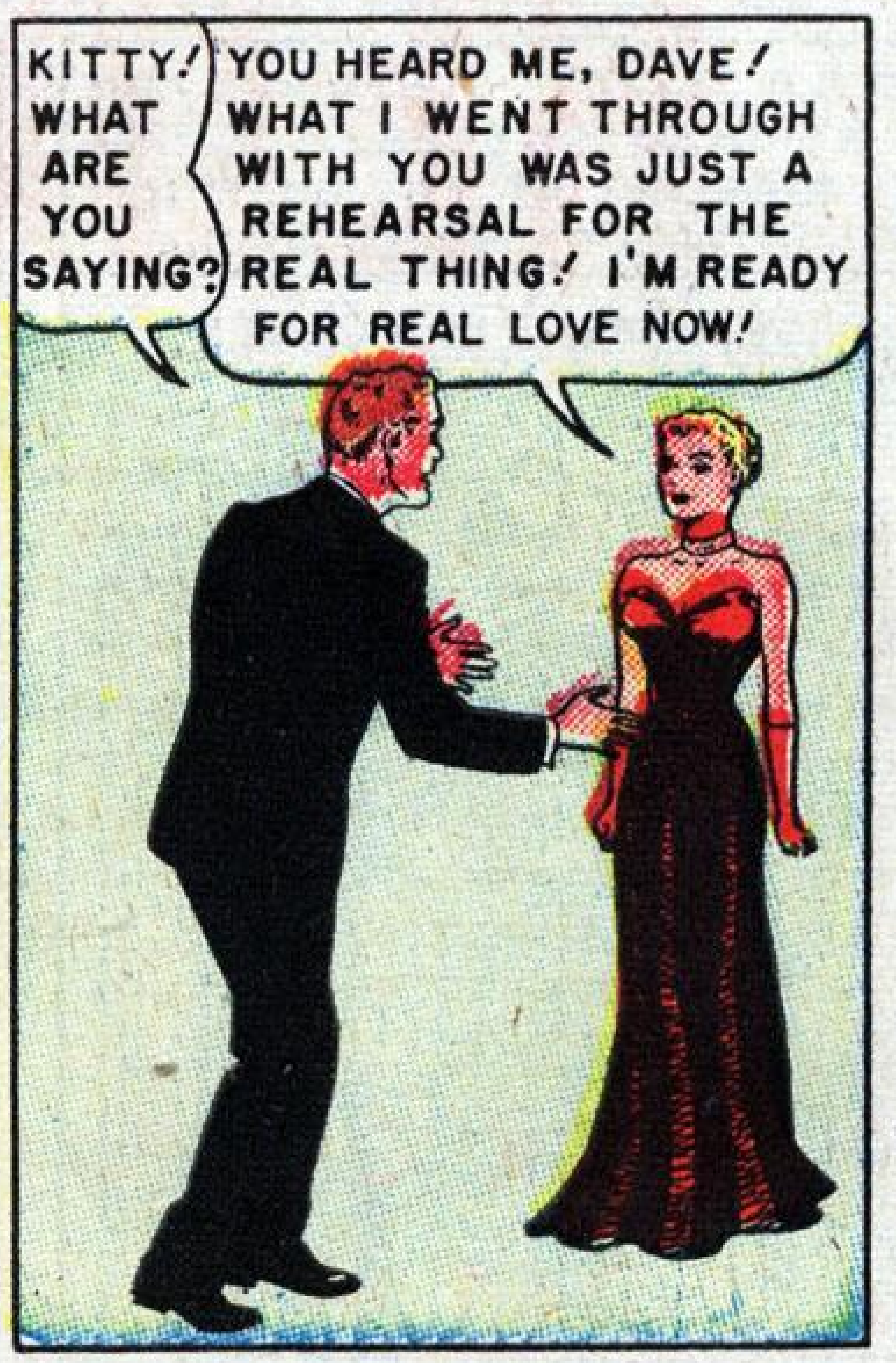

THEN, WHEN I HAD CRIED MY HEART OUT, I LOOKED UP...
OH! I'M SORRY!
YOU NEEDN'T BE! YOU SEE, I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU, KITTY! LET'S GO DOWN TO THE BAR AND I'LL TELL *YOU* ALL ABOUT IT.
THERE WAS SOMETHING TRUSTING ABOUT HIM! SOMEHOW I KNEW HE WOULD BE A FRIEND...A GOOD FRIEND! SITTING IN A COMFORTABLE BOOTH AT THE BAR, HE SAID.
I'M PHIL BOYDD, KITTY, THE SENIOR PARTNER OF THE FIRM! YOU SEE, UNTIL YOUR DAVE CAME ALONG, JOAN AND I WERE GOING TO BE MARRIED! SO YOU AND I ARE IN THE SAME BOAT.
YOU, TOO! OH, HOW COULD THEY BE SO...
IT'S NOT THEM, KITTY! IT'S YOU! YOU'VE LET YOURSELF GO TO SEED!
WHAT?
THAT'S RIGHT! HOW CAN YOU EXPECT TO HOLD A MAN LOOKING AS YOU DO? YOUR HAIR, YOUR MAKE-UP...YOUR CLOTHES! GIRLIE, A MAN WANTS GLAMOR!
MY FATHER SAID THE SAME THING, MR. BOYDD!
AND HE WAS RIGHT! NOW, LISTEN TO ME! DAVE WAS IN LOVE WITH YOU ONCE, BUT HE'S FORGOTTEN WHAT YOU LOOKED LIKE! SO WE'RE GOING TO SHOW HIM! YOU'RE SPENDING THE REST OF THE DAY IN THE RITZIEST BEAUTY SHOP IN TOWN! COME ON, KITTY, ME GAL! LET'S GO!
AND THAT'S WHAT I DID! FACIAL, PERMANENT, A NEW OUTFIT! EVERYTHING! I WAS BAITING A MAN TRAP! AND I WAS ENJOYING IT! I'D SHOW THIS JOAN CUSHING!
PHIL BOYDD WAS WITH ME ALL THE WAY! AND THEN, WHEN THE OVERHAULING JOB WAS DONE AND I CAME OUT THE FIRST THING I SAW WAS...
KITTY!
DO YOU LIKE IT, MR. BOYDD?
WOW! DO I? KITTY...YOU'RE... YOU'RE *BEAUTIFUL*.
LOOK, KITTEN, WE'RE GIVING A PARTY FOR DAVE TONIGHT! ALL THE CRITICS WILL BE THERE! AND SO WILL *YOU*! LET'S SEE HOW HE LIKES THE NEW KITTY!
OH, MR. BOYDD! I'M SO THRILLED! YOU'VE GIVEN ME A NEW LEASE ON LIFE!
5

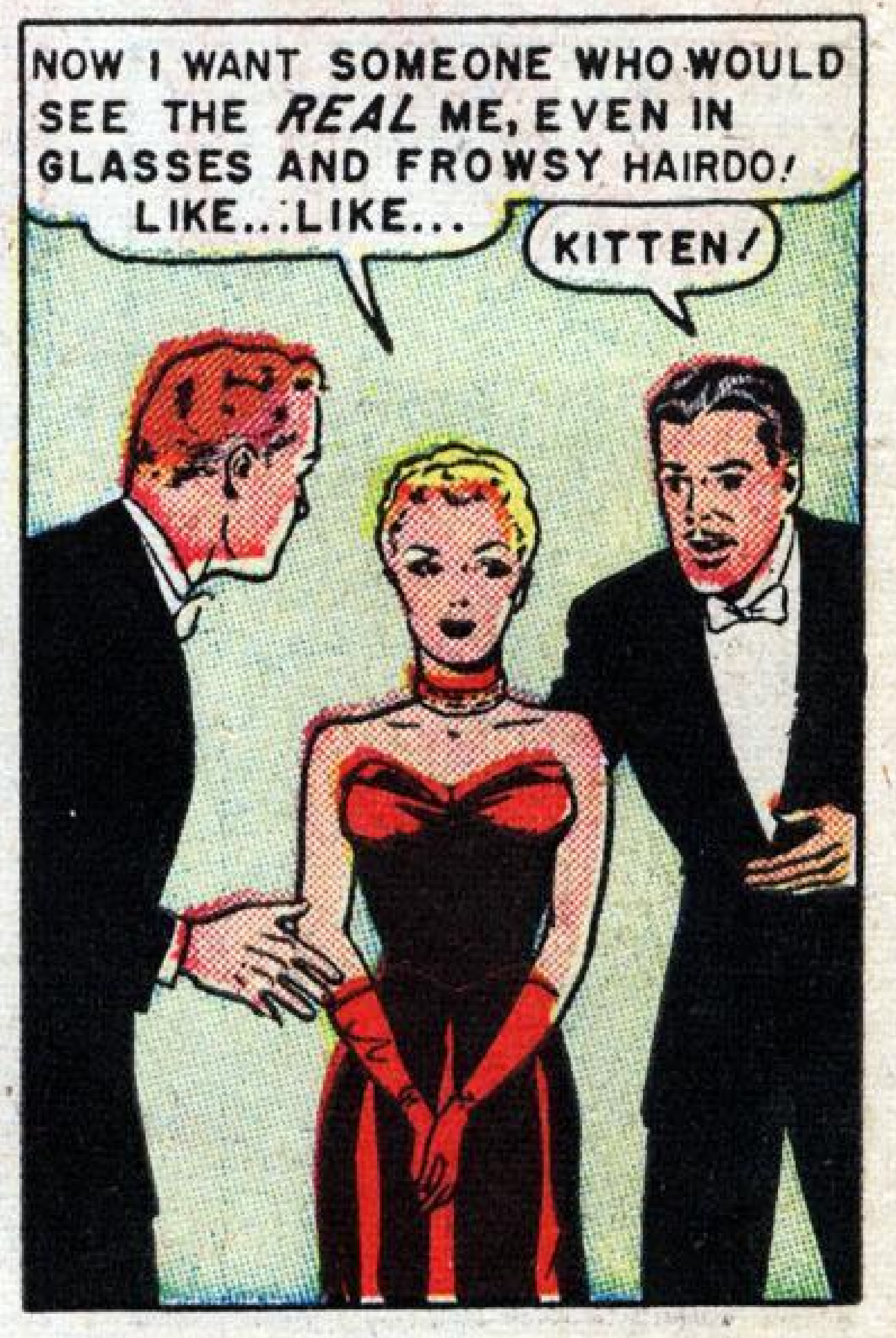
I WAS FILLED WITH HOPE ONCE MORE! I WAS FIGHTING TO GET MY MAN BACK AGAIN! THAT'S ALL THAT WAS ON MY MIND THAT NIGHT AT THE PARTY! THAT, AND TO SHOW JOAN CUSHING I WAS AS GOOD AS SHE WAS ANY TIME! MR. BOYDD WAS MY ESCORT AND HE WAS A MOST GALLANT ONE...!
OH, MR. BOYDD! ARE YOU SURE I LOOK ALL RIGHT?
PERFECT, KITTEN! NOW GET IN THERE AND PITCH! AND DON'T FORGET— I'M ON YOUR SIDE!
WHY...MISS THOMPSON! IT *IS* MISS THOMPSON ISN'T IT?
YES, MISS CUSHING! QUITE A PARTY, THIS! I HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE ME FOR THIS AFTERNOON! I WAS A TRIFLE UPSET!
BUT, OF COURSE, MY DEAR! AFTER ALL, WE CAN'T HELP WHOM WE LOVE OR DON'T LOVE! ISN'T THAT SO, PHIL?
QUITE, JOAN... QUITE!
KITTY! I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE...AND YOU LOOK... HEY! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU? YOU'RE STUNNING!
THANKS, DAVE! OF COURSE I'M HERE! I ACTED SILLY TODAY, BUT WE *ARE* GROWN UP NOW!
I COULD SEE THE CONFUSION AND DOUBT IN DAVE'S EYES! THE FISH WAS NIBBLING AT THE BAIT! HE PRACTICALLY IGNORED JOAN...
OH, DAVE, DEAR... I WANT YOU TO MEET SOMEONE!
IN A MOMENT, JOAN! KITTY, ABOUT CHAPTER SIX IN MY BOOK...
IT WAS A TRIUMPH! I HAD WON HIM BACK! IT WAS AS EASY AS THAT! BUT SOMEHOW, SOMETHING WAS WRONG! IT WAS A HOLLOW TRIUMPH!
KITTY...I'VE BEEN A FOOL...A BLIND, STUPID FOOL! I'VE BEEN ALL WRONG, MY DARLING!
HAVE YOU? I DON'T THINK SO, SOMEHOW, DAVE!
WELL! THIS IS A LOVELY LITTLE SCENE!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MISS CUSHING? DON'T YOU APPRECIATE THE SWITCHEROO?
...ER...EXCUSE ME, FOLKS... BUT THE PARTY'S OVER! EVERYBODY'S LEFT!
DAVE! WHAT ARE YOU, MAN OR MOUSE? CAN'T YOU MAKE UP YOUR MIND AS TO WHICH ONE YOU LOVE?
YES, JOAN, I CAN!
IT'S KITTY...I KNOW THAT NOW! I'VE ALWAYS LOVED HER...DON'T...
YOU BEAST! YOU INSUFFERABLE CAD!

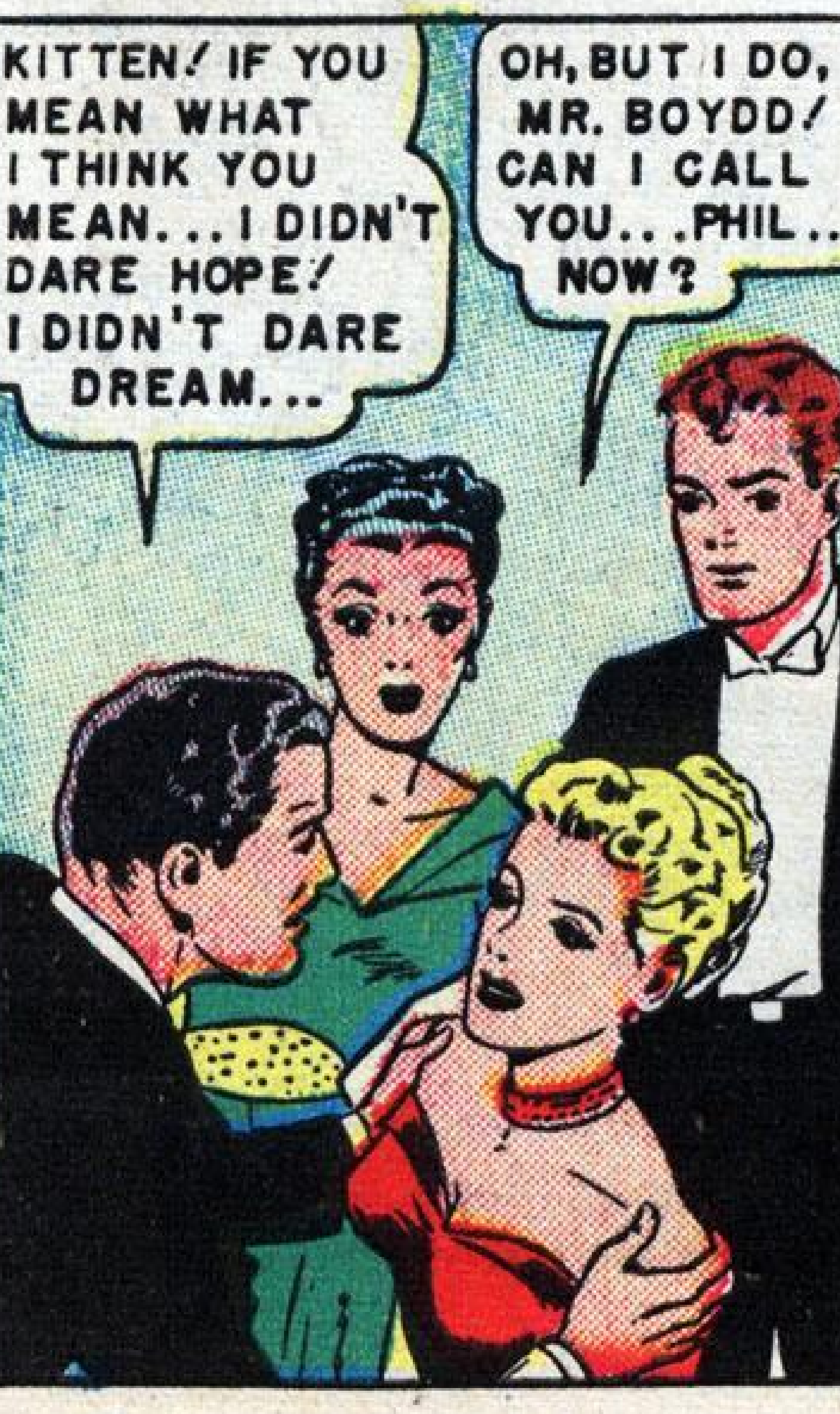

IT WAS QUITE A SCENE THAT TOOK PLACE, EVERYBODY HOLLERING AND EXCITED! WE WERE LIKE A BUNCH OF HYSTERICAL CHICKENS!
YOU CALL YOURSELF A MAN? WHY, YOU WEAK NINCOMPOOP! THE ONLY REASON I TOOK TO YOU WAS BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU HAD A FUTURE! I WAS WRONG! WRONG! WRONG!
IS THAT SO? SO THAT'S WHY YOU WANTED ME! YOU PHONY!
YES, AND I'LL TELL BOTH OF YOU SOMETHING! I DON'T WANT HIM!
NOW, NOW, FOLKS!

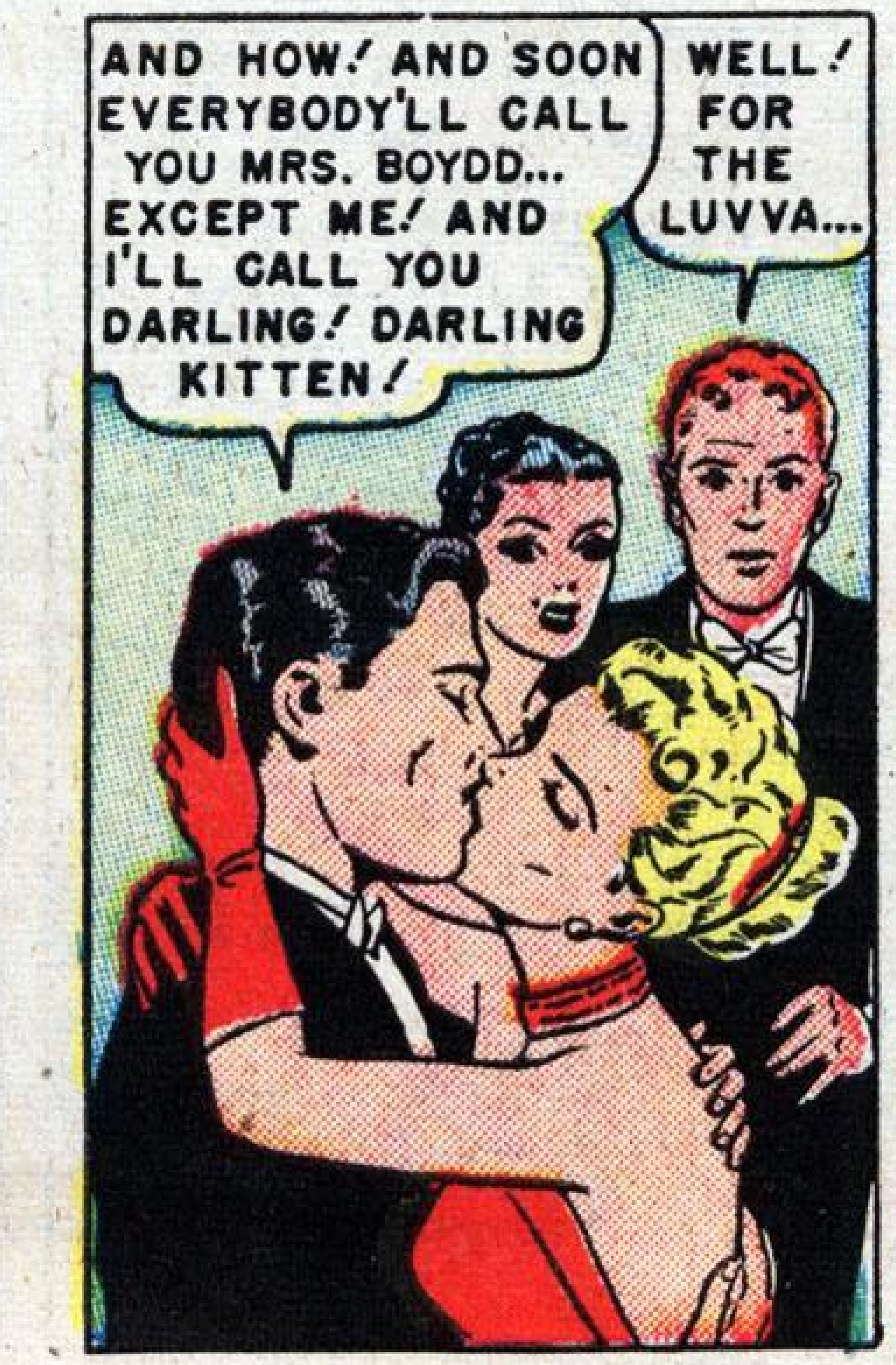

I SAID... I DON'T WANT HIM, EITHER!
W-W-WHAT?


THAT'S A BOMBSHELL, ISN'T IT? BUT IT'S TRUE! I'VE HAD A CHANCE TO THINK THIS OVER AND TO REALLY LOOK AT YOU, DAVE! I WOULDN'T WANT A MAN WHO SWAYS FROM ONE LOVE TO ANOTHER, THE WAY YOU DO! OUR INFATUATION FOR EACH OTHER WAS JUST THAT, PUPPY INFATUATION!


KITTY! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
YOU HEARD ME, DAVE! WHAT I WENT THROUGH WITH YOU WAS JUST A REHEARSAL FOR THE REAL THING! I'M READY FOR REAL LOVE NOW!


NOW I WANT SOMEONE WHO WOULD SEE THE REAL ME, EVEN IN GLASSES AND FROWSY HAIRDO! LIKE...LIKE...
KITTEN!


KITTEN! IF YOU MEAN WHAT I THINK YOU MEAN... I DIDN'T DARE HOPE! I DIDN'T DARE DREAM...
OH, BUT I DO, MR. BOYDD! CAN I CALL YOU...PHIL... NOW?


AND HOW! AND SOON EVERYBODY'LL CALL YOU MRS. BOYDD... EXCEPT ME! AND I'LL CALL YOU DARLING! DARLING KITTEN!
WELL! FOR THE LUVVA...

That's it, Mr. Editor
Yes, I had a broken heart,
but it's patched up with
a bond nothing can
break--Phil's love for
me and mine for him!
Dave and Joan made
up and married after
all--they're happy in
their fashion! But my
story, my love story,
has just begun--
with Phil! I was
broken-hearted, but
never, never again!
Yours very
truly,
Kitty Boydd

THE END

Reducing Specialist Says:

LOSE WEIGHT

where it shows most

REDUCE

most any part of the body with

SPOT REDUCER

"Thanks to the Spot Reducer, I lost four inches around the hips and three inches around the waistline. It's amazing." Mary Martin, Long Island City, N. Y.

Miss Nancy Mace, Bronx, N. Y., says: "I went from size 16 dress to a size 12 with the use of the Spot Reducer. I am glad I used it."

Like a magic wand, the "Spot Reducer" obeys your every wish. Most any part of your body where it is loose and flabby, wherever you have extra weight and inches, the "Spot Reducer" can aid you in acquiring a youthful, slender and graceful figure. The beauty of this scientifically designed Reducer is that the method is so simple and easy, the results quick, sure and harmless. No exercises or strict diets. No steam baths, drugs or laxatives.

Thousands have lost weight this way—in hips, abdomen, legs, arms, buttocks, etc. The same method used by many stage, screen and radio personalities and leading reducing salons. The "Spot Reducer" can be used in your spare time in your own room. It breaks down fatty tissues, tones the muscles and flesh, and the increased, awakened blood circulation carries away waste fat. Two weeks after using the "Spot Reducer," look in the mirror and see a more glamorous, better, firmer, slimmer figure that will delight you. You have nothing to lose but weight for the "Spot Reducer" is sold on a money-back guarantee.

MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE With a 10-DAY FREE TRIAL

If the "Spot Reducer" doesn't do the wonders for you as it has for others, if you don't lose weight and inches where you want to lose it most, if you're not 100% delighted with the results, your money will be returned at once.

Marie Hammel, New York, N. Y., says: "I used to wear a size 20 dress, now I wear size 14, thanks to the Spot Reducer. It was fun and I enjoyed it."

MAIL COUPON NOW!

FREE

A large size jar of Special Formula Body Massage Cream will be included FREE with your order for the "Spot Reducer."

The "Spot Reducer" Co., Dept. 101
871 Broad St., Newark, New Jersey

Send me at once, for $2 cash, check or money order, the "Spot Reducer" and your famous Special Formula Body Massage Cream, postpaid. If I am not 100% satisfied, my money will be refunded.

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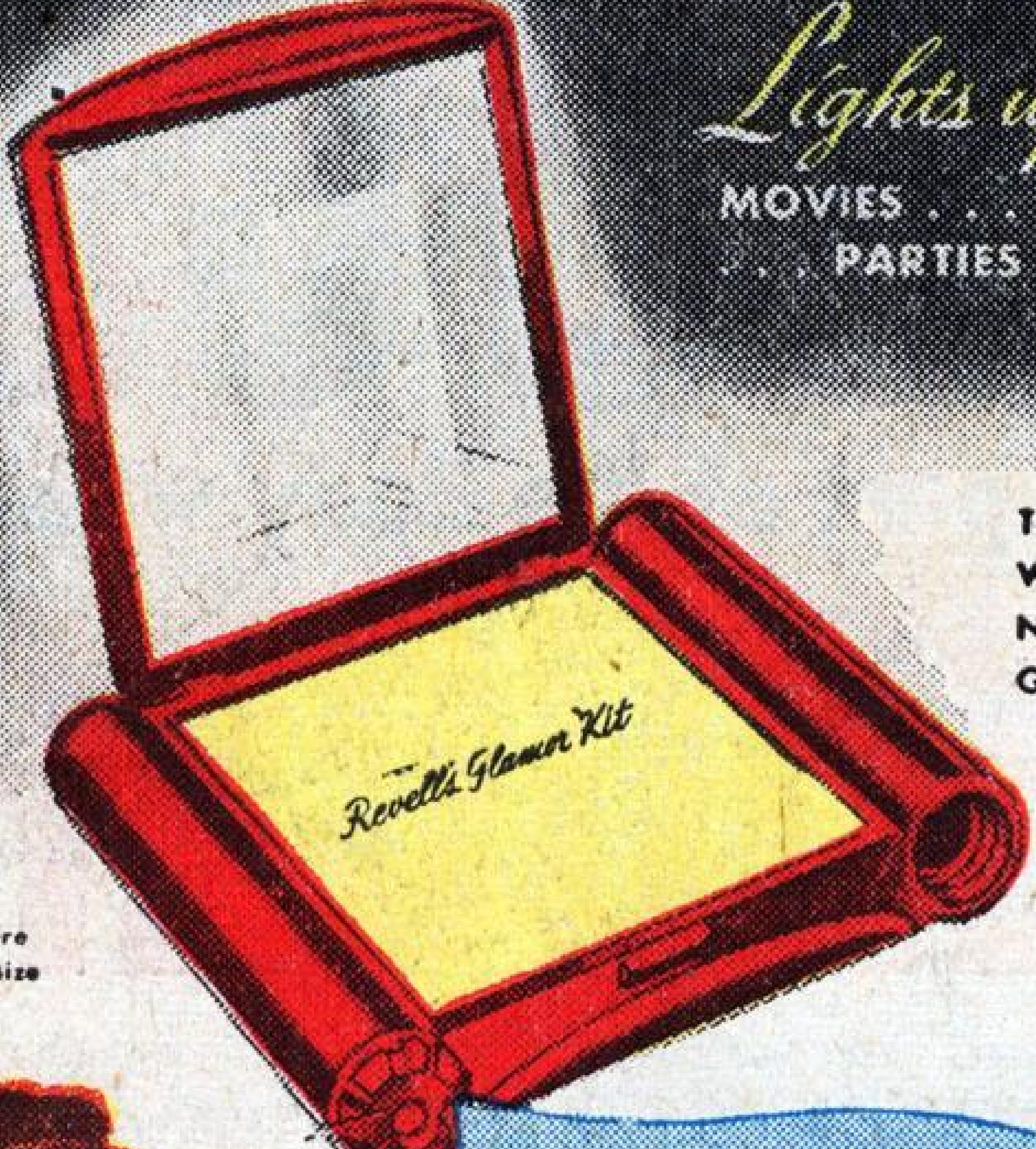
Address ______________________________

City ______________________ State ______________

Exciting New Hollywood ILLUMINATED 5-IN-1 GLAMOR KIT

Lights up in the dark

MOVIES . . . AUTOS . . . THEATRES . . . PARTIES . . . COUNTRY CLUBS



Compact shown here ½ actual size

ADELE MARA of "Angel in Exile," A Republic Picture.

The Rage of Women Who Love the Unusual! Now You Can Own a 5-in-1 Glamor Kit Used by the Stars

1. A Compact
2. A Cigarette Case
3. Cigarette Lighter
4. Lipbrush
5. Flashlight with Battery

Only $4.98 Complete

All 5 in ONE Beautiful Case No Bigger than a Compact

Imagine! This newest of new, streamlined Glamor Kit contains 5 separate features compacted into one dainty case, only 4½" x 3½". It's a compact and lipbrush on one side, with a handy flashlight. It's a cigarette case with lighter on the other side! It's a space-saving dream. Wonderful for applying make-up in the dark wherever you go. Stunning-looking in either Chinese Red or Ebony Black. Now you can be the envy of all your friends. Send for this gorgeous 5-in-1 Hollywood Glamor Kit TODAY.

SEND NO MONEY

To get this beautiful 5-in-1 Glamor Kit, just fill in the coupon below. On arrival, pay postman only $4.98 plus C.O.D. postage on guarantee of satisfaction or your money back. Send cash, we pay postage. Be first! Order right away.

1. A Compact

2. Cigarette Case

3. Cigarette Lighter

4. Lipbrush

5. Flashlight

AMERICAN MERCHANDISING CO.

Dept. GK49, 9 Madison Ave., Montgomery 4, Ala.

MAIL THIS COUPON TODAY

American Merchandising Co. Dept. GK49
9 Madison Ave., Montgomery 4, Ala

Please rush my 5-in-1 Glamor Kit in color checked below. On arrival I will pay postman only $4.98 plus C.O.D. postage on guarantee I must be pleased or my money back.

☐ Chinese Red ☐ Ebony Black

Name____

Address_______________________________________

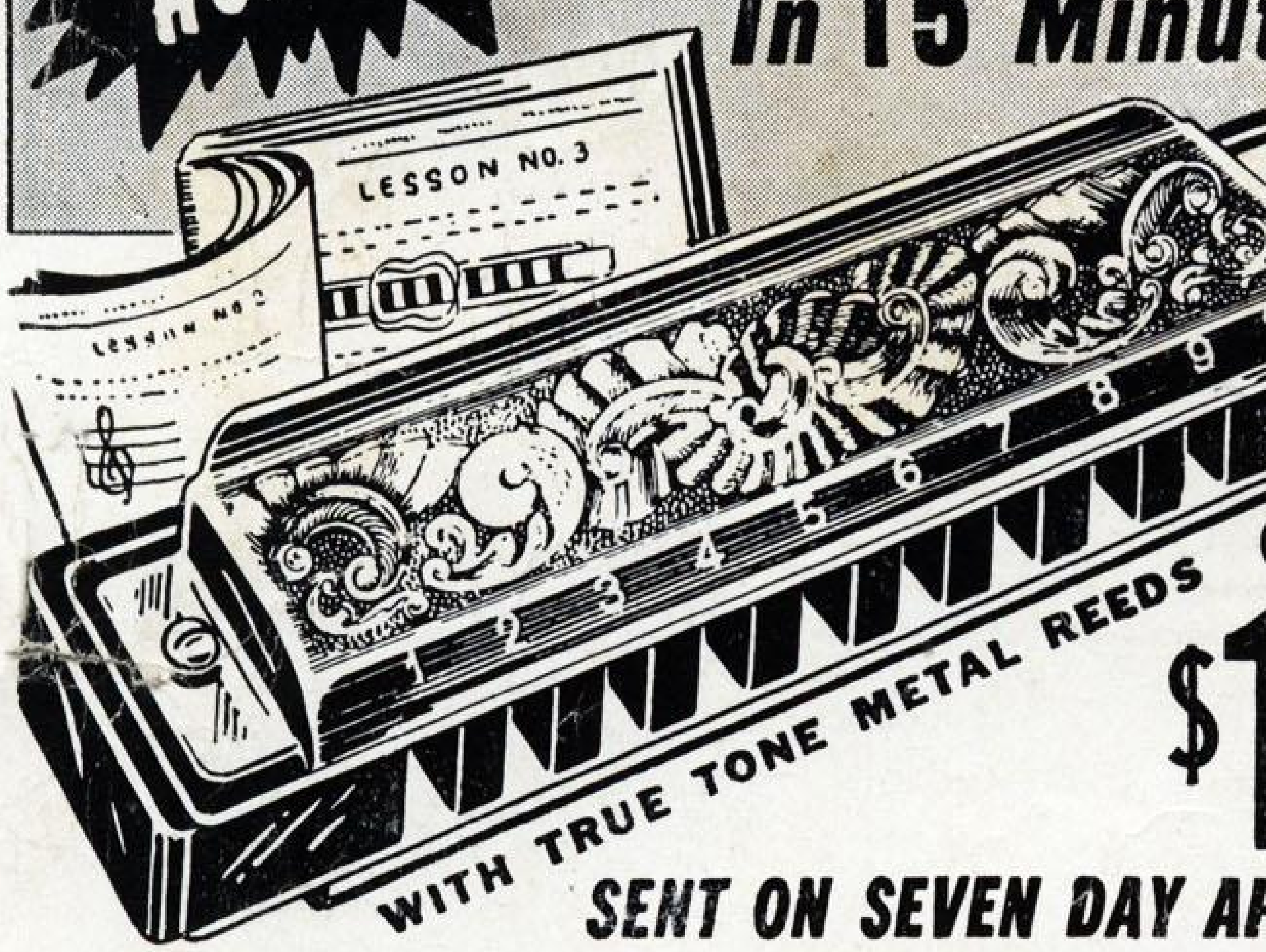
City____________________Zone______State_________

☐ $4.98 enclosed, You Pay Postage.

IF YOU CAN WHISTLE- or HUM A TUNE-

"HOPPY" WILL SHOW YOU HOW TO PLAY THIS *METAL* HARMONICA

In 15 Minutes — Or Money Back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WITH TRUE TONE METAL REEDS

ONLY $1.69

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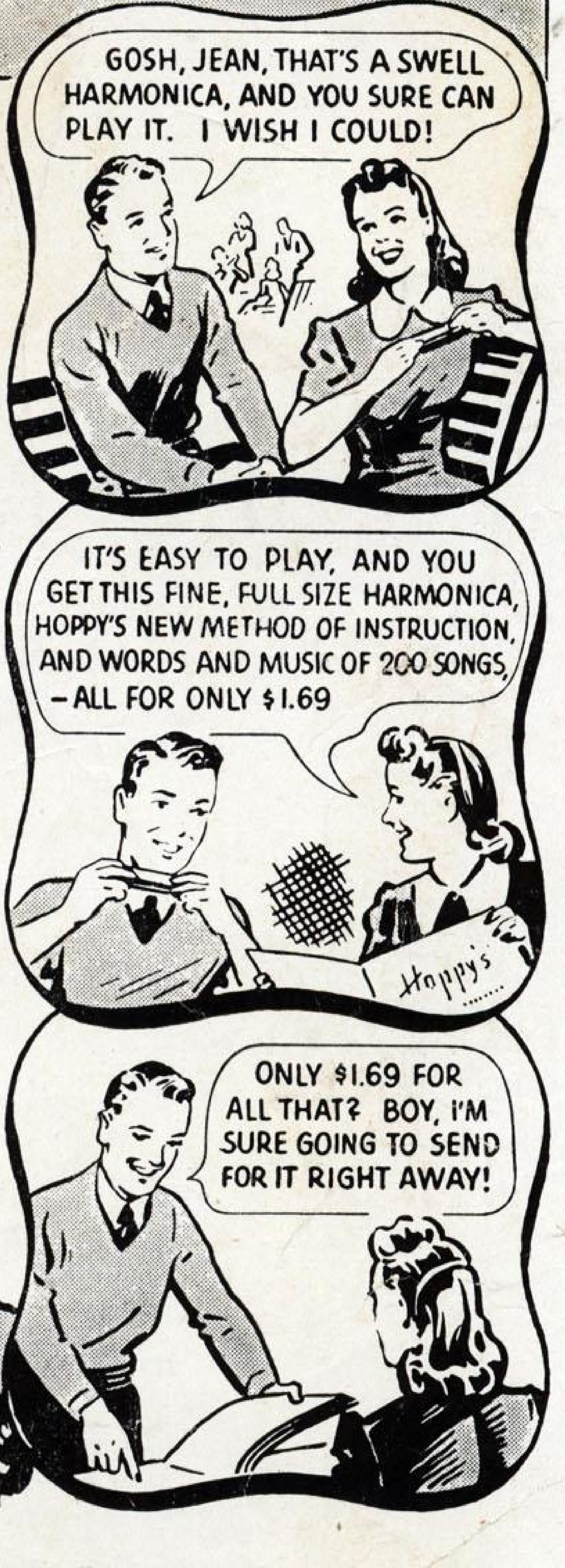
Learn to play in a day or it costs you nothing! We make this daring offer to every man or woman, boy or girl who enjoys music and who would like to play the harmonica. Now, for the first time, you can get a nationally advertised, genuine metal professional harmonica, and receive as a gift Hoppy's new method for playing it. Along with the music *and the words* to 200 of your favorite songs — songs that were selected so that you can sing and play right along with your favorite radio program or records. Expert harmonica players will tell you that the best harmonicas are the easiest ones to play. The harmonica you receive in this amazing offer is the full size metal professional model of the very finest quality. It comes in the Key of C so that you can accompany any other music. Each metal reed is individually tuned and tested. *You cannot buy a harmonica with finer workmanship, no matter how much you pay.* Hoppy's new discovery for showing you how to play makes it as simple as ABC and it's lots of fun. *Anyone who can whistle or hum a tune — and count up to ten can learn so quickly that it is unbelievable!* Most people say that this amazing method itself is worth the $1.69 price of the harmonica! Order your harmonica now while this introductory offer is being made. Remember, Hoppy *guarantees* that you will soon be playing song hits of all kinds or your money back!


GOSH, JEAN, THAT'S A SWELL HARMONICA, AND YOU SURE CAN PLAY IT. I WISH I COULD!
IT'S EASY TO PLAY, AND YOU GET THIS FINE, FULL SIZE HARMONICA, HOPPY'S NEW METHOD OF INSTRUCTION, AND WORDS AND MUSIC OF 200 SONGS, —ALL FOR ONLY $1.69
Hoppy's
ONLY $1.69 FOR ALL THAT? BOY, I'M SURE GOING TO SEND FOR IT RIGHT AWAY!

IN THIS

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Just send your name and address on penny postcard. Your beautiful Key of C professional metal Harmonica and Hoppy's Complete Book of Instructions and 200 Songs will be mailed at once. On arrival, pay postman just $1.69 plus C.O.D. and postage. Keep for 7 days on free trial offer. If you are not satisfied, return and your money will be refunded at once. Supplies are limited. Don't risk disappointment. Order now—TODAY!

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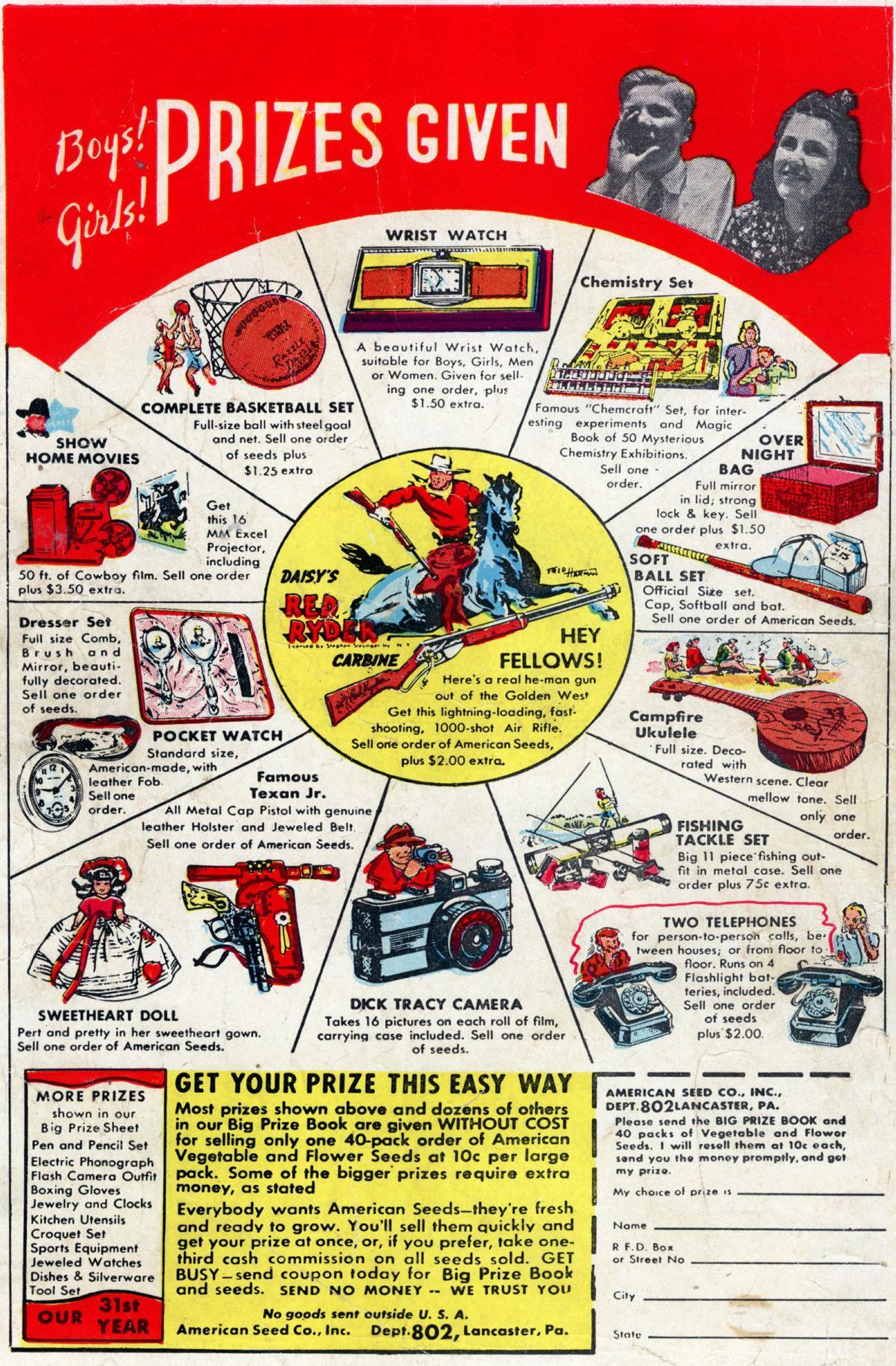
Rush my genuine Key of C Professional Metal Harmonica and Hoppy's Complete Book of Instructions along with the music and words of 200 songs to me at once. On arrival I will deposit just $1.69 plus postage. If in 7 days I am not thrilled and delighted I may return purchase for my money back.

*Name*______________________________

*Address*____________________________

*City*__________________ *State*__________



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Official Size set. Cap, Softball and bat. Sell one order of American Seeds.

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Here's a real he-man gun out of the Golden West Get this lightning-loading, fast-shooting, 1000-shot Air Rifle. Sell one order of American Seeds, plus $2.00 extra.

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Full size Comb, Brush and Mirror, beautifully decorated. Sell one order of seeds.

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Standard size, American-made, with leather Fob. Sell one order.

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All Metal Cap Pistol with genuine leather Holster and Jeweled Belt. Sell one order of American Seeds.

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Full size. Decorated with Western scene. Clear mellow tone. Sell only one order.

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Big 11 piece fishing outfit in metal case. Sell one order plus 75c extra.

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for person-to-person calls, between houses; or from floor to floor. Runs on 4 Flashlight batteries, included. Sell one order of seeds plus $2.00.

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